

NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting	Executive Member for Environment and Transport Decision Day
Date and Time	Tuesday 23rd April, 2019 at 2.00 pm
Place	Chute Room, Ell Court South, The Castle, Winchester
Enquiries to	members.services@hants.gov.uk

John Coughlan CBE
Chief Executive
The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ

FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

This meeting may be recorded and broadcast live on the County Council's website. The meeting may also be recorded and broadcast by the press and members of the public – please see the Filming Protocol available on the County Council's website.

AGENDA

Key Decisions

1. PROJECT APPRAISAL: ECLIPSE BUSWAY COMPLETION OF PHASE 1 - RETENTION OF ROWNER ROAD BRIDGE (Pages 5 - 22)

To consider a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment seeking approval for the implementation of an alternative southern junction to the Fareham to Gosport Eclipse Busway which retains the Rowner Road bridge and the existing grade-separated shared-use route for pedestrians and cyclists.

2. AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY MANAGEMENT PLANS (Pages 23 - 502)

To consider a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment seeking the approval of the 2019-2024 Management Plans for the Cranborne Chase, North Wessex Downs, and Chichester Harbour Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

3. RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE (Pages 503 - 512)

To consider a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment seeking authority to commission Veolia to develop detailed designs for a proposed new Materials Recycling Facility, to enable a full business case to be prepared.

4. GLASS CONTRACT UPDATE (Pages 513 - 518)

To consider a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment seeking approval to bring glass processing into the waste disposal service contract and highlight the financial implications.

5. WINCHESTER MOVEMENT STRATEGY (Pages 519 - 526)

To consider a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment seeking approval of a Movement Strategy for the City of Winchester.

Non Key Decisions

6. GOVERNMENT WASTE STRATEGY CONSULTATION RESPONSES (Pages 527 - 536)

To consider a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment regarding the Hampshire County Council response to the Government's Waste Strategy Consultation.

7. PROJECT APPRAISAL: JERMYS LANE FOOTWAY TO BRAISHFIELD, ROMSEY (Pages 537 - 550)

To consider a report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment regarding the proposed Jermys Lane footway to Braishfield.

8. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES (Pages 551 - 552)

To appoint a new Member to the River Wey Trust Management Committee.

ABOUT THIS AGENDA:

On request, this agenda can be provided in alternative versions (such as large print, Braille or audio) and in alternative languages.

ABOUT THIS MEETING:

The press and public are welcome to attend the public sessions of the meeting. If you have any particular requirements, for example if you require wheelchair access, please contact members.services@hants.gov.uk for assistance.

County Councillors attending as appointed members of this Committee or by virtue of Standing Order 18.5; or with the concurrence of the Chairman in connection with their duties as members of the Council or as a local County Councillor qualify for travelling expenses.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	23 April 2019
Title:	Project Appraisal Update: Eclipse Busway Completion of Phase 1 – Retention of Rowner Road Bridge
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Sarah Lister

Tel: 01962 845744

Email: sarah.lister@hants.gov.uk

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Executive Member notes the increase in the value of this scheme from £10.702 million to £11.602 million in the 2018/19 Capital Programme.
- 1.2 That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport approves the Project Appraisal Update for the Eclipse Busway Completion of Phase 1 – Retention of Rowner Road Bridge, as outlined in this report.
- 1.3 That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport gives approval to procure and spend and enter into the necessary contractual arrangements to implement the scheme, as set out in this report, including entering into a funding agreement with Portsmouth City Council for Transforming Cities Funding (original source Department for Transport), in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to complete the scheme at a total value of £11.602 million.
- 1.4 That authority to make the arrangements to implement the scheme, including minor variations to the design or contract, be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for the implementation of an alternative southern junction to the Fareham to Gosport Eclipse Busway.
- 2.2 In July 2018 an Executive Member for Environment and Transport decision approved a 0.9km southern extension to the Eclipse Busway between Hutfield Link/Tichborne Way and Rowner Road.
- 2.3 The scheme will complete Phase 1 of the planned busway. Once complete, First Hampshire and Dorset will invest in a new fleet of low-emission buses as well as introducing a new Eclipse Extra service to the Daedalus Enterprise Zone.

- 2.4 In November 2018 an Executive Member for Environment and Transport decision gave approval to develop the design, pursue funding, secure consents, and make all necessary arrangements, including the submission of a planning application for an alternative arrangement to the Rowner Road junction which retains the bridge and the existing grade-separated shared-use route for pedestrians and cyclists.
- 2.5 Gosport Borough Council Economic Development Board agreed to dedicate the additional land required for the alternative option as highway at their meeting on 14 November 2018.
- 2.6 In March 2019, £1.40million was secured from the Department for Transport's Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) towards the alternative southern junction.
- 2.7 The planning application for the alternative southern junction is expected to be determined on 17 April 2019, after the time of writing.

3. Background

- 3.1 Planning permission was granted in July 2009 for the dedicated busway to operate between Redlands Lane in Fareham and Military Road in Gosport. Phase 1A of the Eclipse Busway, which opened in 2012, consists of a high quality two-way dedicated, unguided busway between Redlands Lane in Fareham and Tichborne Way in Gosport. The A32 is highly congested at peak times, resulting in service delays and poor journey time reliability. The busway uses the disused railway branch line corridor to provide a reliable alternative route for buses to avoid the A32.
- 3.2 The busway is one of a number of infrastructure improvements helping to generate investment to create much needed jobs for a growing population in Gosport, an area of economic underperformance, where employment has declined by a significant 11% between 2006 and 2016. This compares poorly to Hampshire as a whole where employment has increased by 3.6% on average over the same period.
- 3.3 First Hampshire and Dorset, working in partnership with Hampshire County Council, operates high specification buses on a fully commercial basis that provide fast and high-frequency services on the busway.
- 3.4 The existing Eclipse Busway Phase 1A has delivered significant modal shift. Approximately 20% of passengers have transferred from the car, and traffic has reduced by up to 2% on the parallel A32. There has been a 64% growth in patronage on the two Eclipse routes compared with the services they replaced, delivering a 12% increase in public transport use generally on the peninsula. More people are using Eclipse for their daily commute, and more passengers are transferring to rail at Fareham railway station. A particular area of growth has been in the student market for journeys to Fareham

College. Approximately 2.4 million journeys each year are now made on Eclipse, the busiest bus corridor wholly within Hampshire.

- 3.5 The busway has been very attractive to local cyclists as it provides a largely traffic-free, direct route.

4. Finance

- 4.1 In November 2018 approval was given for an initial increase in the value of the scheme to develop the design and make other necessary arrangements in relation to the Rowner Road element, subject to a successful TCF bid. In March 2019 the Executive Member approved a virement from revenue of £0.5 million to support the funding for the scheme. In addition, on confirmation of the successful (Transforming Cities Fund) (TCF) Tranche 1 bid to the Department for Transport (DfT), a further virement from revenue of £0.14 million (the County Council's match funding for the bid) has also been approved. These actions took the total approved value of the scheme to £10.702 million.
- 4.2 In March 2019 Hampshire County Council was notified that it was successful in securing £1.4million of TCF Tranche 1 funding from the Department for Transport as part of a combined bid with Portsmouth City Council for funding for schemes in the Portsmouth city region. Following the decision in November for the initial increase in the scheme value, the Executive Member for Environment and Transport is now asked to note the revised increase of £0.9 million to be fully met from the TCF grant.
- 4.3 The Department for Transport has passed the entire Tranche 1 funding secured for the city region to Portsmouth City Council. It is therefore necessary for the County Council to enter into a funding agreement with Portsmouth City Council to secure the £1.4million TCF funding for this scheme.
- 4.4 At the end of the 2018/19 financial year the department has been able to review alternative potential internal sources of funding for the scheme to ensure that the County Council corporate underwrite (approved September 2018) is only required where alternative funding cannot be secured. This review has resulted in the corporate underwrite reducing by £1,823,000 to £677,000. The new funding sources include £420,000 of funding from the Economy, Transport, and Environment (ETE) Structural Maintenance budget, reflecting the reduced long-term maintenance liability resulting from the capital renewal of this additional element, as well as ETE capital receipts and an increase in LTP availability.

Estimates	£'000	% of total	Funds Available	£'000
Design fee	490	4.2	NPIF	6930
Client fee	347	3.0	TCF	1400
Supervision	708	6.1	BRT Profit Share	100
Construction	10,056	86.7	Developer Contributions	100
			Revenue virements*	640
			Structural Maintenance contribution	420
			ETE capital receipts	301
			Local Transport Plan	1034
			Local Resources	677
Total	£11,602	100		£11,602

*Includes £140,000 Hampshire County Council match funding related to the Transforming Cities Funding.

4.5	<u>Maintenance Implications</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>% Variation to Committee's budget</u>
	Net increase in current expenditure	50	0.044%
	Capital Charge	1,116	0.698%

5. Programme

- 5.1 The completion of Phase 1 of the Eclipse Busway forms part of the County Council's Transport Capital Programme for 2018/19.
- 5.2 An Advance Works Contract comprising installation of ducting for future utility diversion works and site clearance was carried out in Autumn 2018.
- 5.3 A further Advance Works Contract, including utility diversion works, is programmed to commence in Summer 2019. The main works contract will then follow for commencement in Autumn 2019.

6. Scheme Details

- 6.1 An alternative junction option has been developed for the southern section of the busway extension. This option will retain the existing bridge at Rowner Road and maintain the existing segregated footway / cycleway that passes under the bridge.
- 6.2 A new signal-controlled junction will be formed where the southern section of the Eclipse Busway extension meets Rowner Road to allow bus and cycle access to and from the new route.
- 6.3 The extended busway will cross the shared-use cycleway/footway at-grade north of Rowner Road, and then continue along a new ramped embankment to meet Rowner Road immediately to the east of the bridge. A scheme plan is provided in Appendix 1 Drawing No. CJ008883-ECH-HGN-15624315-DR-HE-4001.

7. Departures from Standards

- 7.1 The Scheme proposals have been designed to comply with Department for Transport and Hampshire County Council standards for highway improvement schemes.
- 7.2 The following is a list of departures from the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges highway design guidance standards: "TD9 Highway Link Design," and "TD50 The Geometric Layout of Signal Controlled Junctions and Signalised Roundabouts" –
 - a one-step departure from TD9 (Para 2.13) relating to reduced horizontal radii is necessary to avoid the closure of a main badger sett. The reduced radii are considered acceptable in this instance due to the limited vehicle movements on the busway;
 - a departure from TD9 (Para 3.11) relating to widening requirement on curves if carriageway less than the Standard Width which is 7.3m for 2 lanes. This is considered acceptable due to proposed traffic formation on the busway. Swept path analysis for two Eclipse Buses in each direction

has been undertaken and indicates a safe operation through the curved section to support the departure; and

- a departure from TD50 (Para 2.16) relating to obstructions due to the existing bridge parapet and retaining walls within the inter-visibility zone at the traffic signal junction. This is considered acceptable due to the restricted movements/uses at this junction, and higher seating position and improved visibility for bus drivers making this manoeuvre.

7.3 The following is a relaxation from the standards:

- existing bridge parapet height lower than standard for cyclist use – mitigated by providing 0.5m of hatching adjacent to the parapet to discourage cyclists from riding close to the parapet edge.

8. Community Engagement

8.1 Initial public consultation for the whole busway from Redlands Lane in Fareham to Military Road in Gosport took place in 2008 and 2009. Feedback was mainly positive, with 88% of respondents thinking there was a need to improve public transport on the Peninsular and 70% stating the busway would help improve access and address some of the areas raised as concerns.

8.2 Statutory consultation was carried out and the results considered when the planning application for Rowner Road junction was determined in 2013.

8.3 To make residents of Gosport and stakeholders aware of the current approved scheme, a Public Exhibition was held in Bridgemary in May 2018. Key concerns raised were:

- closure of Rowner Road during construction;
- the scheme cost; and
- pedestrian and cyclist safety (given the removal of the bridge and loss of the grade separated pedestrian/cycle route).

8.4 As part of the design refresh for the scheme, an alternative southern junction was identified that retains the bridge and existing footway / cycleway. Statutory consultation has been carried out, and the results will be considered when the planning application for the alternative junction is determined.

8.5 Should approval be granted to build the alternative scheme, an exhibition of the revised junction with Rowner Road that facilitates retention of the bridge, will be held in Summer 2019 so that residents of Gosport and other stakeholders are made aware of the revised proposals.

- 8.6 First Hampshire and Dorset will work in partnership with Hampshire County Council on this project, providing a new fleet of high specification low emission buses and a new Eclipse Extra service to the Daedalus Enterprise Zone. First have acknowledged their support for the completion of the busway and the alternative southern junction with Rowner Road.
- 8.7 County Councillor Stephen Philpott has expressed support for the completion of the Eclipse Busway and in particular the revised junction arrangement that allows the retention of Rowner Road Bridge.

9. Statutory Procedures

- 9.1 Two planning permissions are required for the busway extension: -
- for the whole route from Redlands Lane in Fareham south, via the disused railway corridor to Military Road in Gosport (P/09/0278/CC), this was granted in 2009; and
 - for a new junction with Rowner Road that allows retention of the bridge and the shared use footway / cycleway (19/00034/HCC3), this is expected to be determined prior to the meeting.
- 9.2 Permanent Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) will be required to extend the existing TROs in place on Henry Cort Way. These are for:
- speed limit;
 - local buses and cyclists only;
 - times of operation of the busway; and
 - prohibition of pedestrians.
- 9.3 A Temporary TRO will be required for the temporary closure of Rowner Road to allow the tie-in of the new busway ramp.
- 9.4 It is proposed that Hampshire County Council will designate the extension to the Eclipse Busway as a 'Protected Street', as a 'Street with Special Engineering Difficulties' and as a 'Traffic Sensitive Street'. Notices will be made under Sections 61, 63 and 64 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA) respectively.
- 9.5 A Section 58 NRSWA 'Restriction on Works following substantial road works', will be sought for Rowner Road to protect it from planned maintenance by utility companies for one year after opening.
- 9.6 Authority to pursue these processes and seek these approvals has been granted as part of previous decision day reports on this Scheme.

10. Land Requirements

- 10.1 Hampshire County Council purchased the whole extent of the redundant railway corridor between Fareham and Gosport for the busway scheme and the land is currently held for highway purposes. Additional land is required at the southern end of the scheme to enable the busway to tie into Rowner Road to the east of the bridge.
- 10.2 The additional land is owned by Gosport Borough Council and their Economic Development Board agreed on 14 November 2018 to dedicate the area required for highway purposes. A legal agreement for the dedication of this land is being prepared. Plans showing the land to be dedicated and licensed as working space can be found in Appendix 2, Drawing Nos. CJ008883-ECH-GEN-15624315-DR-HE-0050 and CJ008883-ECH-GEN-15624315-DR-HE-0056.

11. Maintenance Implications

- 11.1 The proposals will generate increased maintenance pressures which have been calculated at approximately £50,300 per annum and should be taken into account when setting future annual highway maintenance budgets.
- 11.2 Many of the materials that will be used in the construction of the Scheme are standard materials used elsewhere on the highway. However, other materials are specific to the busway and match those used in Phase 1A.
- 11.3 A review of the materials and usage of facilities provided on Phase 1A has recently been carried out. The Scheme has been designed in line with the outcome of that review.
- 11.4 It is proposed that all of the southern section of the busway corridor be adopted as public highway from back of verge to back of verge (see plan in Appendix 3).

LTP3 Priorities and Policy Objectives

3 Priorities

- To support economic growth by ensuring the safety, soundness and efficiency of the transport network in Hampshire
- Provide a safe, well maintained and more resilient road network in Hampshire.
- Manage traffic to maximise the efficiency of existing network capacity, improving journey time reliability and reducing emissions, to support the efficient and sustainable movement of people and goods

14 Policy Objectives

- Improve road safety (through delivery of casualty reduction and speed management)
- Efficient management of parking provision (on and off street, including servicing)
- Support use of new transport technologies (i.e. Smartcards; RTI; electric vehicle charging points)
- Work with operators to grow bus travel and remove barriers to access
 -
- Support community transport provision to maintain 'safety net' of basic access to services
- Improve access to rail stations, and improve parking and station facilities
- Provide a home to school transport service that meets changing curriculum needs
- Improve co-ordination and integration between travel modes through interchange improvements
- Apply 'Manual for Streets' design principles to support a better balance between traffic and community life
- Improve air quality
- Reduce the need to travel, through technology and Smarter Choices measures

- Promote walking and cycling to provide a healthy alternative to the car for short local journeys to work, local services or school
- Develop Bus Rapid Transit and high quality public transport in South Hampshire, to reduce car dependence and improve journey time reliability
- Outline and implement a long term transport strategy to enable sustainable development in major growth areas

Other

Please list any other targets (i.e. National Indicators, non LTP) to which this scheme will contribute.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	no
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
Project Appraisal: South East Hampshire Bus Rapid Transit – Phase 1 Fareham –Gosport	29 January 2009
New Junction with Eclipse Busway and Removal of Existing Road Bridge at Rowner Road, Gosport (Application No: 13/00323/HCC3) (Site Ref: GPH002)	23 October 2013
Project Appraisal: Eclipse Busway: Completion of Phase 1	17 July 2018
Project Appraisal Update: Eclipse Busway: Completion of Phase 1 – Retention of Rowner Road Bridge	13 November 2018
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
None	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

The impact of the whole scheme has been assessed as having a neutral impact on people with protected characteristics as the busway will provide enhanced public transport facilities for the whole community with improved access to waiting facilities and bus services. However, older people, younger people and those on lower incomes are generally greater users of bus services than other age and income groups.

The alternative junction will provide better access for cyclists and pedestrians, retaining the bridge and the existing grade separated footway / cycleway for pedestrians and cyclists.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

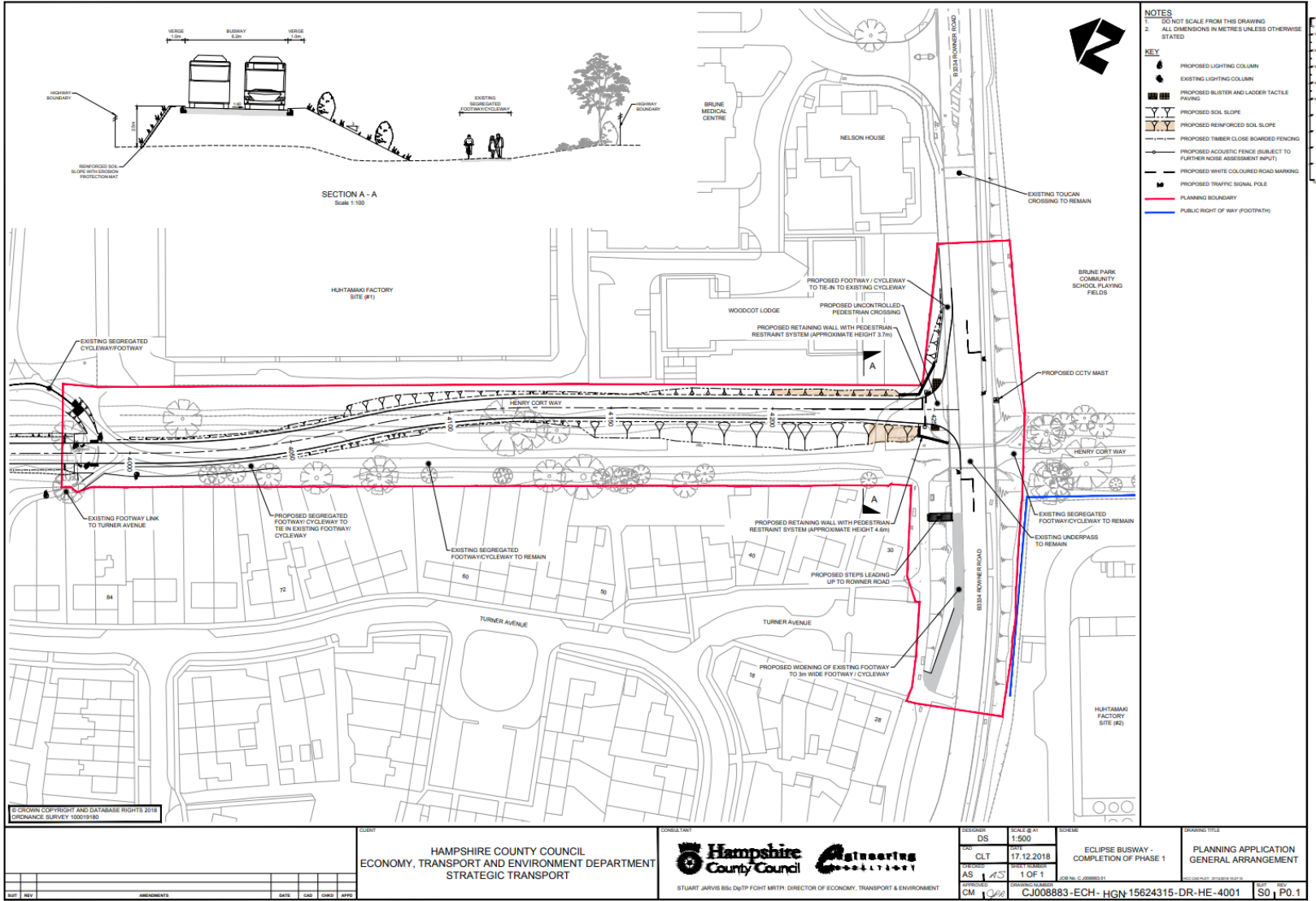
2.1. Neutral.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

In 2009 carbon dioxide emissions were calculated for the whole busway, from Fareham to Gosport, and these were anticipated to reduce by 1045 tonnes in the opening year, and a total of 68,535 tonnes over the subsequent 60 year period.

This page is intentionally left blank



© CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2018
ORDNANCE SURVEY 100019180

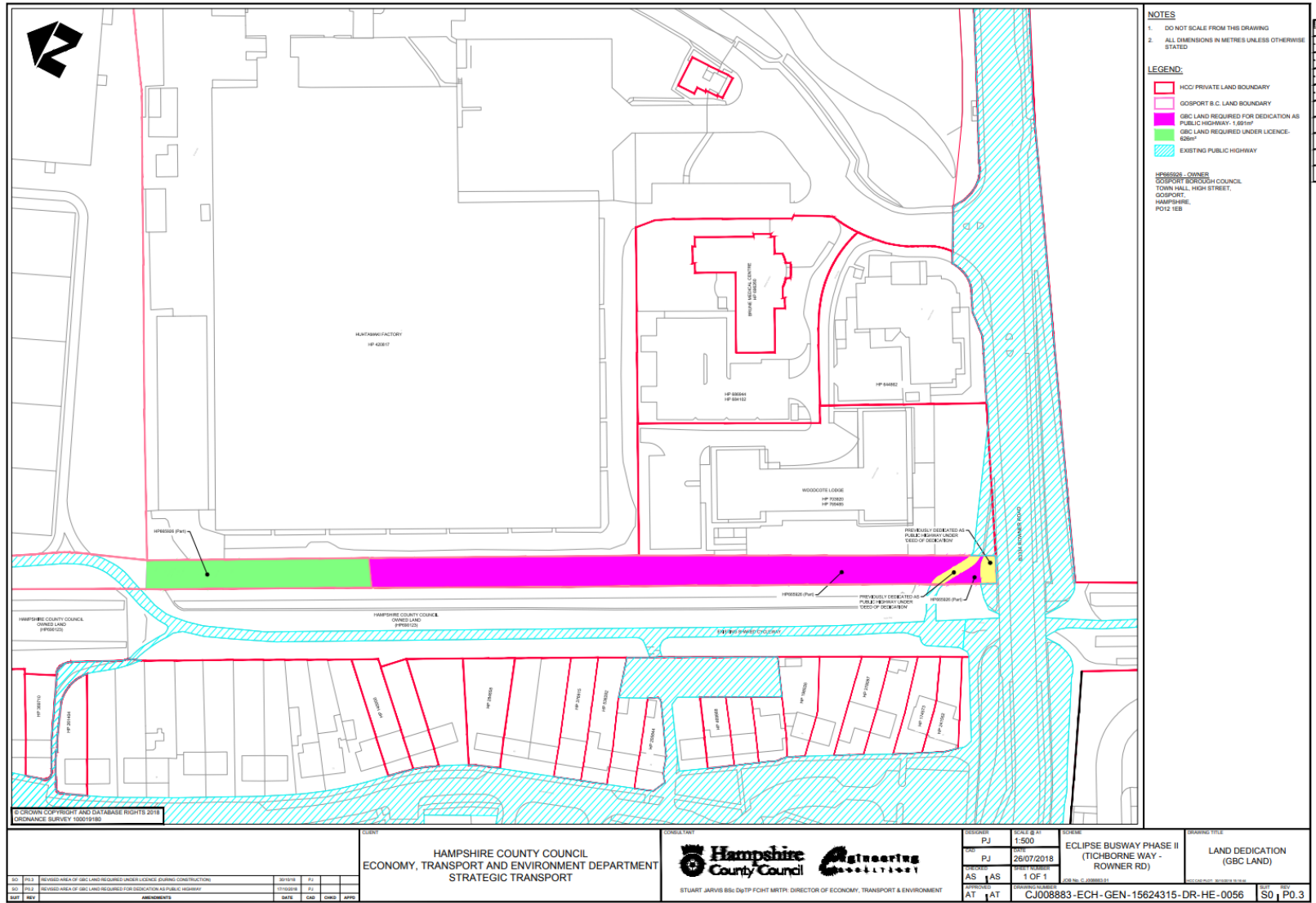
CLIENT
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
 ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
 STRATEGIC TRANSPORT

CONTRACT NO.
Hampshire County Council
 STUART JARVIS BSc DipTP FCIHT MRITP: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMY, TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 17.12.2018
 SCALE: 1:500
 SHEET: 1 OF 1
 DRAWING NO: C/008883-ECH-HGN-15624315-DR-HE-4001

TITLE
 ECLIPSE BUSWAY - COMPLETION OF PHASE 1
 PLANNING APPLICATION GENERAL ARRANGEMENT
 SCALE: 1:500
 SHEET: 1 OF 1
 DRAWING NO: C/008883-ECH-HGN-15624315-DR-HE-4001

ORDNANCE SURVEY 100019180 © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2018



NOTES
 1. DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING
 2. ALL DIMENSIONS IN METRES UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

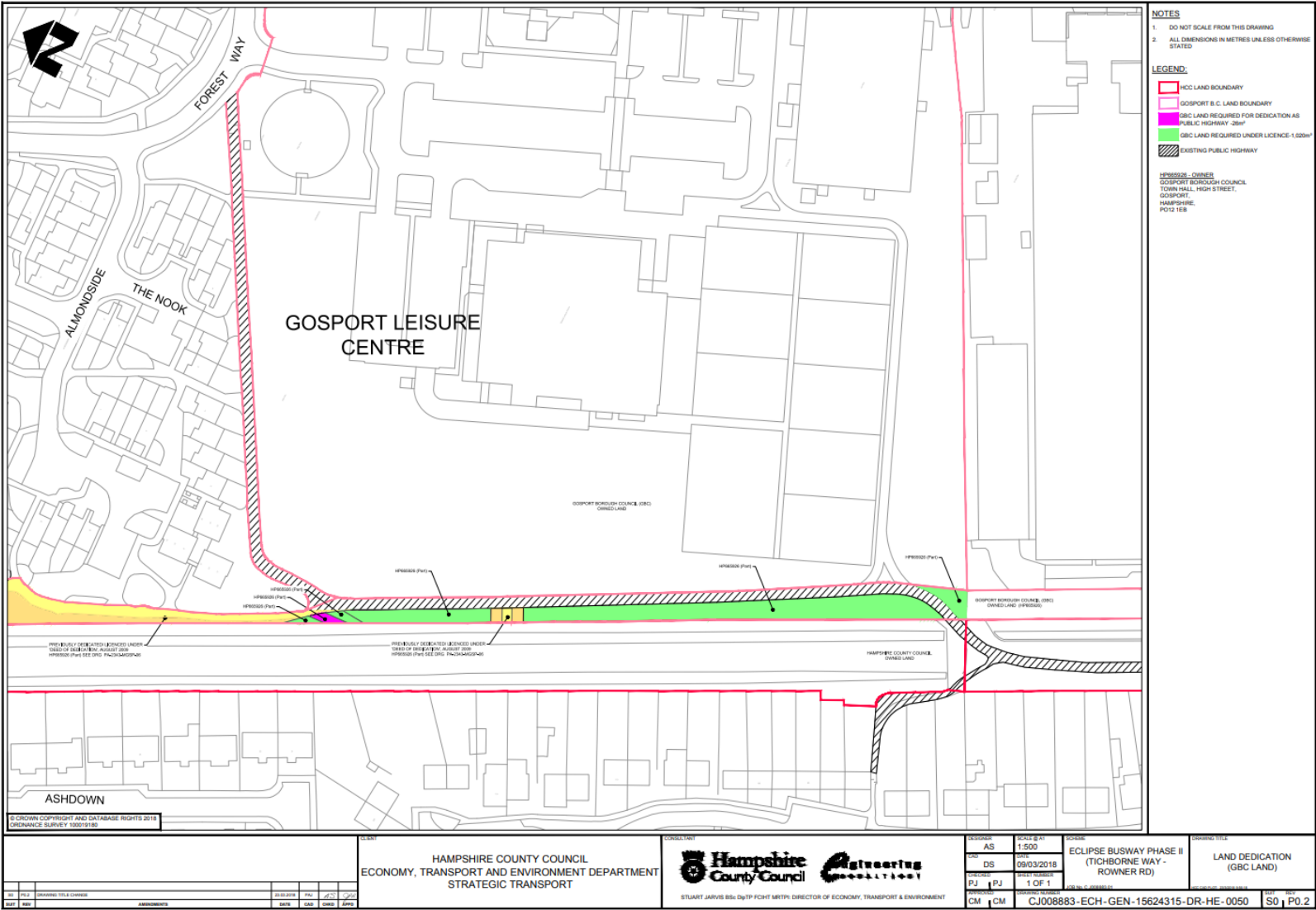
LEGEND:

- HCCI PRIVATE LAND BOUNDARY
- GOSPORT S.C. LAND BOUNDARY
- GBC LAND REQUIRED FOR DEDICATION AS PUBLIC HIGHWAY - 1.85M²
- GBC LAND REQUIRED UNDER LICENCE - 625M²
- EXISTING PUBLIC HIGHWAY

HMP55223 - OWNER
 GOSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL
 TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET,
 GOSPORT,
 HAMPSHIRE,
 PO12 1EB

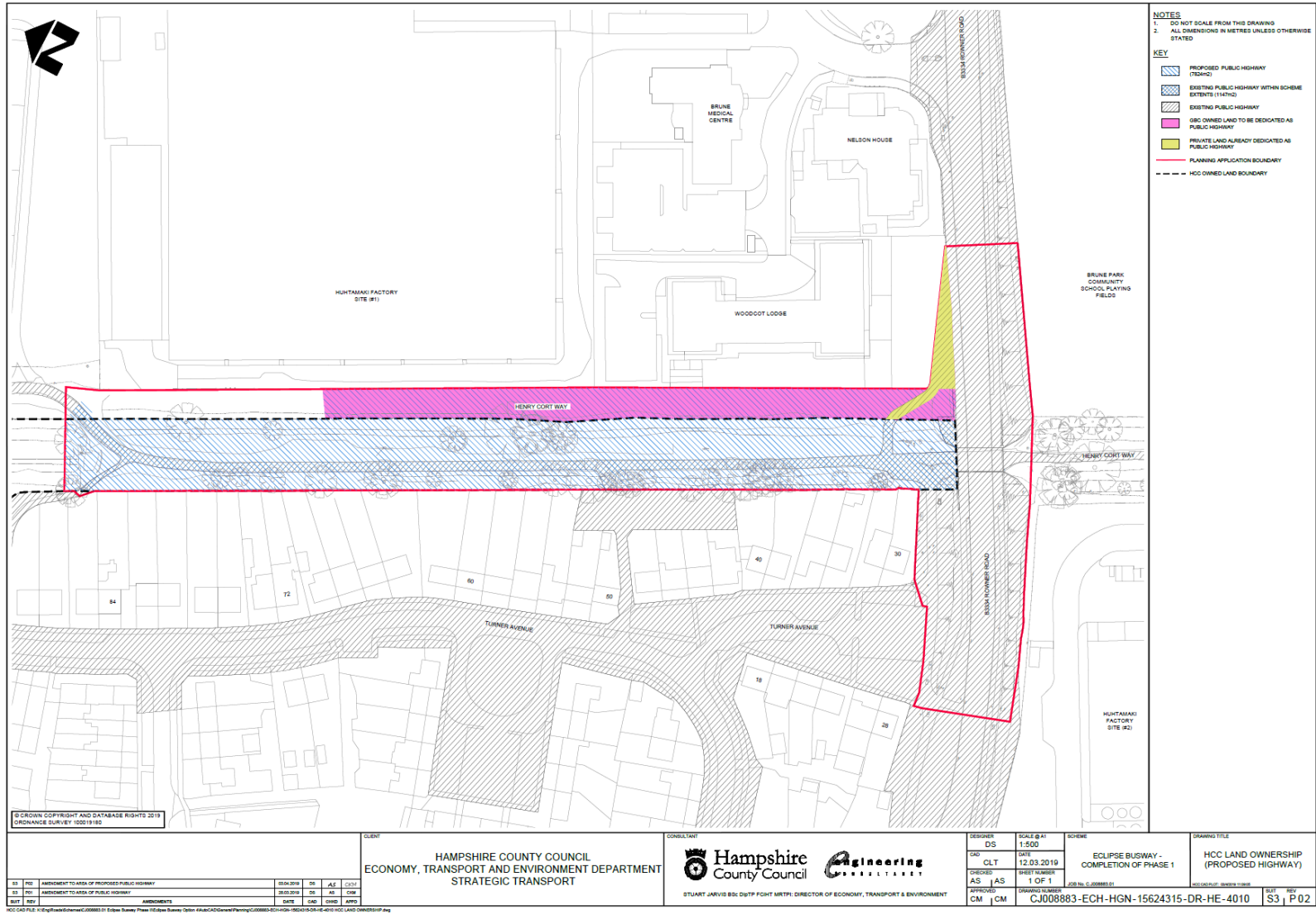
© CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2018
 ORDNANCE SURVEY 100019180

<p>HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC TRANSPORT</p>						DESIGNER PJ DATE 26/07/2018 CHECKED AS APPROVED AT	SCALE 1:500 SHEET NO. 1 OF 1 JOB NO. C 20888314	SCHEME ECLIPSE BUSWAY PHASE II (TITCHBORNE WAY - ROWNER RD) DRAWING TITLE LAND DEDICATION (GBC LAND)	SHEET NO. SO 1 P0.3
NO. 001 REV. 1 DATE 26/07/2018 BY PJ APPR.	NO. 002 REV. 1 DATE 26/07/2018 BY PJ APPR.	NO. 003 REV. 1 DATE 26/07/2018 BY PJ APPR.	NO. 004 REV. 1 DATE 26/07/2018 BY PJ APPR.	NO. 005 REV. 1 DATE 26/07/2018 BY PJ APPR.	NO. 006 REV. 1 DATE 26/07/2018 BY PJ APPR.	NO. 007 REV. 1 DATE 26/07/2018 BY PJ APPR.	NO. 008 REV. 1 DATE 26/07/2018 BY PJ APPR.	NO. 009 REV. 1 DATE 26/07/2018 BY PJ APPR.	NO. 010 REV. 1 DATE 26/07/2018 BY PJ APPR.



- NOTES**
- DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING
 - ALL DIMENSIONS IN METRES UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
- LEGEND:**
- HCC LAND BOUNDARY
 - GOSPORT B.C. LAND BOUNDARY
 - GBC LAND REQUIRED FOR DEDICATION AS PUBLIC HIGHWAY 2007
 - GBC LAND REQUIRED UNDER LICENCE 1.0204
 - EXISTING PUBLIC HIGHWAY
- HP65526 - OWNER
 GOSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL
 TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET,
 GOSPORT,
 HAMPSHIRE,
 PO12 1EB

<p>© CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHTS 2018 ORDNANCE SURVEY 100019183</p>		<p>HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC TRANSPORT</p>		<p>Hampshire County Council Agri-environment</p>		<p>DESIGNER: AS CHECKER: DS DATE: 09/03/2018 PROJECT: PJ1_PJ1 APPROVAL: CM CM</p>		<p>SCALE: 1:500 DATE: 09/03/2018 SHEET NUMBER: 1 OF 1 PROJECT NUMBER: CJ008883-ECH-GEN-15624315-DR-HE-0050</p>		<p>DRAWING TITLE: LAND DEDICATION (GBC LAND) SHEET NUMBER: S0 P0.2</p>	
--	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	---	--	---	--



HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	23 April 2019
Title:	Cranborne Chase, North Wessex Downs and Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans 2019-24.
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Garry King

Tel: 01962 667946

Email: garry.king@hants.gov.uk

1. Recommendation

- 1.1. That approval is given for the adoption of the 2019-24 Management Plans for the Cranborne Chase, North Wessex Downs, and Chichester Harbour Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and the documents are published in accordance with the requirements of Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for the adoption of the 2019-2024 Management Plans for the Cranborne Chase, North Wessex Downs, and Chichester Harbour Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Adoption entails formal approval of amendments arising from the review of the AONB management plans, as required by Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000.
- 2.2. The three draft plans are appended to this report. Some final updates are required, but the principal content is included here for consideration and approval. As and when approval has been confirmed from all the relevant authorities, the revised documents will officially replace the previous versions.
- 2.3. Approval of these AONB Management Plans will enable the County Council to meet its statutory responsibility to review, produce and publish strategic land management plans for AONBs within its geographic area and help in delivering its Strategic Plan aims that 'People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment' and 'People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities'. The statutory responsibility applies equally to all other relevant local authorities for each of the three AONBs.
- 2.4. The coordination of the review, production and publication of these strategic Management Plans, together with the coordination of their delivery, has been delegated to the respective AONB Partnerships (Chichester Harbour Conservancy acts as the governance body for the Chichester Harbour AONB), working on the County Council's behalf.

- 2.5. The AONB Management Plans submitted with this paper have been approved/endorsed by the Cranborne Chase AONB Partnership Board, North Wessex Downs AONB Council of Partners and the Chichester Harbour Conservancy, respectively. Following approval by the relevant local authorities, the Management Plans will be subject to further design work and formatting for publication, as appropriate.
- 2.6. Local Authority contributions to its AONBs enable their Partnerships to draw-down significant additional match funding. For instance, for every pound paid to the North Wessex Downs AONB, a further £5.39 was secured to enable the delivery of Management Plan objectives in 2017/18 in Hampshire and across the AONB.
- 2.7. This paper sets out the contextual information on Hampshire's AONBs and how these strategic Management Plans deliver Hampshire County Council priorities.

3. Contextual information

- 3.1. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are designated by Government, under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, for the primary purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the landscape. Protection of AONBs is enhanced by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000.
- 3.2. Section 89 of the CRoW Act places a statutory duty on relevant local authorities to review, prepare and publish Management Plans for AONBs within their geographic areas, collectively with other relevant local authorities, at five yearly intervals. Management Plans for Hampshire's AONBs were first published in 2004 and following 'light-touch' reviews, published again in 2009 and 2014. The current plans have again undergone light-touch reviews, following advice from Natural England, to update them for the plan period 2019-2024.
- 3.3. The 2019-2024 Management Plans are neither development plans nor completely new Management Plans. They have been updated to reflect changes in legislation, regulation and policy, projects delivered and opportunities for delivery. Changes to the Plans include: refreshed vision and objectives/policies; appropriate reference made to the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and reviewed National Policy Framework (NPPF); greater focus on climate change, natural capital, and ecosystem services; detail of projects delivered over the last five years; and the identification of opportunities for delivery and funding over the next five years.
- 3.4. The vision, objectives and policies have been made more concise and objectives and policies made more realistic to enable Management Plan delivery. Objectives and policies have also been amended where new projects and priorities will be pursued over the next five years.
- 3.5. The 25 Year Environment Plan is now referenced in the Ministerial Foreword of each Management Plan and additional references to relevant sections have been inserted. Reference has also been made to the recently initiated national review of protected landscapes (the 'Glover Review'), a key ambition in the Environment Plan. The Environment Plan recognises the importance of AONBs in delivering the Government's environmental ambitions.

- 3.6. Although the emphasis placed on the protection of AONBs in the reviewed NPPF remains broadly the same, the structure of the national policy document has been significantly amended and, as a result, referencing to the document has been amended throughout the Management Plans, as appropriate.
- 3.7. Climate change has become a more pressing international issue since the current Management Plans were reviewed, as has been the recognition of the benefits of a natural capital and ecosystem services approach to land management and the health and well-being benefits of AONBs to communities. The cross-cutting nature of these issues/topics has been emphasised in the Management Plans, suitable projects and initiatives included, and updated targets and methodologies referenced.
- 3.8. The Management Plans refer to projects delivered during the last five years and identify opportunities for project delivery over the period of the plans and beyond. Opportunities listed include the potential for the AONBs to be a delivery vehicle for agri-environment and rural development schemes, which could see increased resources to the AONBs and opportunities for better communication with the farming and landowning communities.
- 3.9. The approach to generic issues and topics varies between the respective Management Plans and reflects the different views and priorities of each AONB Partnership and the different site-specific characteristics and requirements of each of the AONB landscapes.
- 3.10. All other AONB relevant Local Authorities, in addition to Hampshire County Council, are also required to approve each respective AONB Management Plan and have already approved or are in the process of approving the Plans. A list of relevant local authorities for each of the three AONBs, including both local authority and Defra financial contributions, is provided in Appendix 1.
- 3.11. Additionally, under Section 85 of the CRoW Act relevant local authorities have a duty to 'have regard' to the primary purpose of AONBs in all the decisions they make. The primary purpose of AONBs is 'conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area' and this purpose is the cornerstone of AONB Management Plans.
- 3.12. Partnerships, underpinned by small AONB delivery teams, were established by relevant local authorities, including Hampshire County Council, to coordinate the preparation, publication and implementation of the statutory AONB Management Plans on their behalf. The Chichester Harbour Conservancy is the governing body for the Chichester Harbour AONB.
- 3.13. Notice was given to Natural England by each AONB partnership of the proposal to review the Management Plans at the outset of the process and copies of redrafted plans sent to it on completion, in compliance with Section 90 of the CRoW Act. Observations made by Natural England at all stages of the process have been taken into consideration. In addition, full twelve-week public consultation was undertaken for each reviewed Management Plan. Copies of the reviewed AONB Management Plans, approved by the relevant local authorities, are required to be sent by the respective AONB Partnerships to the Secretary of State for approval.
- 3.14. Since the finalisation of the first AONB Management Plans in 2004, the AONB teams and wider partnerships have been undertaking activities to deliver

actions set out in the plans. The delivery of policies and actions for the AONBs is reviewed and evaluated annually.

- 3.15. The Chichester Harbour AONB Management Plan is an Integrated Plan to ensure that the planning of the operation of the harbour and the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the AONB are integrated.
- 3.16. Hampshire County Council has been actively engaged with the Cranborne Chase AONB and North Wessex Downs AONB Partnerships in the review of the respective Management Plans via:
 - County Council Member and Officer steering of the respective Partnership Boards;
 - Officer guidance and advice via the respective Partnership Steering Groups;
 - Officer input to the respective Management Plan Review Groups;
 - Officer input via Management Plan workshops;
 - Officer response to the first drafts of the revised Management Plans;
 - Officer technical response to the formal consultations on the final drafts of the Management Plans; and
 - Approval and publication (this part of the process).
- 3.17. Hampshire County Council has been engaged with the Chichester Harbour AONB and review of the Management Plan via:
 - Member input to the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Board;
 - Officer response to the first draft of the revised Management Plan;
 - Officer involvement on the Management Plan Steering Group;
 - Officer technical response to the formal consultation on the final draft of the Management Plan; and
 - Approval and publication (this part of the process).

4. Finance

- 4.1. The Government, through Defra, provides up to 75% match-funding for AONB partnerships, with relevant local authority partners collectively responsible for the remaining 25%. Defra funding is dependent on the local authority funding being in place. Local authority funding is shared across relevant local authorities following agreed funding formulae.
- 4.2. For the Cranborne Chase and North Wessex Downs AONBs, annual contributions from each relevant local authority are set out in respective Partnership Agreements. Defra 3:1 match funding is confirmed on a three-year cycle. For the financial year 2019/20 Hampshire County Council's agreed contribution to the Cranborne Chase AONB is £2,187.48 and to the North Wessex Downs AONB is £8,854.69.
- 4.3. For Chichester Harbour AONB, relevant local authority funding is paid through the Chichester Harbour Conservancy from the Chichester Harbour precepts, paid by Hampshire County Council and West Sussex County Council under the terms of the Chichester Harbour Act 1971. This funding receives significant match funding from Defra.
- 4.4. The Management Plans do not commit the County Council to any further expenditure beyond the annual contributions outlined above.

5. Performance

- 5.1. Although the primary purpose of the AONB designation is to 'conserve and enhance natural beauty', the CRoW Act makes clear that in pursuing this primary purpose account should be taken of the needs of local communities and that particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development. All three AONB Management Plans contain policies to support sustainable local businesses and sustainable development.
- 5.2. In addition, the CRoW Act makes clear that recreation should be met in so far as this is consistent with the needs of the rural economy, including agriculture and forestry and the conservation of natural beauty.
- 5.3. The County Council's financial contributions to Hampshire's AONB partnerships has enabled those partnerships to draw-down many times these figures in external funding for core and project activities (e.g. £5.39 for every £1.00 of funding to the North Wessex Downs AONB partnership).
- 5.4. Some examples of recent projects/funding include:
 - Current bid by the Cranborne Chase AONB Partnership for approximately £1.7million of grant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscapes Partnership Scheme (total project value £2.4million), which would include significant funding and project work for that part of Hampshire within the AONB;
 - Supporting the development of community projects within the AONBs through their Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) small project grant schemes; and
 - Development of a bid by the Cranborne Chase AONB Partnership for the AONB to become an International Dark Sky Reserve.
- 5.5. The Chichester Harbour AONB Management Plan is an integrated plan for the AONB, the Conservancy and for management of water-based activity in the Harbour, ensuring integration in policy implementation.
- 5.6. The delivery of the AONB Management Plans, which are monitored by their respective partnerships through an annual review of the implementation of their respective action plans, will make a significant positive contribution to the delivery of the County Council's Strategic Plan.

6. Consultation and Equalities

- 6.1. Formal public consultations were undertaken for all three draft AONB Management Plans (2019-24) and the draft plans amended as a result of comments received. Public consultation followed internal consultations with AONB Partnership Members, officers and other stakeholders.
- 6.2. Equalities Impact Assessments (EqIA) were undertaken for each AONB Management Plan by the respective AONB Partnerships. These concluded that, due to the inclusive nature of the Management Plans and their purpose in conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONBs, their objectives and policies would have no negative impacts on those groups of people identified in law as being at risk of discrimination, or on poverty or rurality.

7. Other Key Issues

- 7.1. Although there is a statutory duty on relevant local authorities to review AONB Management Plans on a five-yearly basis, the advice from Natural England is that this should constitute a 'light touch' review only, in order to avoid diverting resources away from delivery.
- 7.2. Initial reviews of current AONB Management Plans (approved by Hampshire County Council in 2014) reflected the national guidance approach that substantial re-drafting is not required. The overall visions, objectives and policies remain broadly relevant, but the plans required updating to take account of changing national and local policy, new legislation, opportunities around Brexit and the publication of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, to ensure that the policies and actions for the next five years will be fit for purpose.
- 7.3. All three AONB partnerships considered that their current plans would benefit from being more concise and easily accessible, and review and redrafting has reflected this.

8. Future direction

- 8.1. Once approved, the AONB Management Plans will operate for a five year period until 31 March 2024 (30 September 2024 for the North Wessex Downs AONB). The process of reviewing the plans will begin in late 2022 or early 2023 and include the County Council's involvement. Reviewed and updated Management Plans will then be published in 2024.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	No
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Chichester Harbour and Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – Management Plan Review	24 March 2009
North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan	28 July 2009
Adoption of Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB 2014-2019 Management Plans	4 March 2014
Adoption of North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) 2014-2019 Management Plan	1 April 2014
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act	1949
Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act	2000

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Cranborne Chase AONB Management Plan 2019-2024	Strategic Planning Group
North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2019-2024	Strategic Planning Group
Chichester Harbour AONB Management Plan 2019-2024	Strategic Planning Group
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1 The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2 Equalities Impact Assessment:

Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) Screening was undertaken for each AONB Management Plan on behalf of their respective Partnerships. These assessments concluded that, due to the inclusive nature of the Management Plans and their purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONBs, their objectives and policies would have no negative impacts on those groups of people identified in law as being at risk of discrimination or on poverty or rurality.

The plans make provision for improvement of physical access to the protected landscapes for individuals with mobility problems.

2. Impact on crime and disorder

2.1. It is considered that approval of the AONB Management Plans will have no impact on crime and disorder.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

The focus of the AONB Management Plans is on the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the landscape. Specific policies/objectives are contained within the AONB Management Plans that seek to reduce our carbon footprint/energy consumption.

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

The effects of climate change on the natural beauty of the landscape of the AONBs is a key issue in the AONB Management Plan and policies/objectives that seek to address climate change adaption are contained within the plans.

Appendix 1**AONB Relevant Local Authorities and AONB funding**

Cranborne Chase AONB	2019/20 (£)
Hampshire County Council	2,187.48
Wiltshire Council	39,259.00
Dorset County Council	9,428.00
East Dorset District Council	5,193.65
North Dorset District Council	4,234.24
New Forest District Council	2,187.48
Somerset County Council	735.55
Mendip District Council	434.94
South Somerset District Council	300.62
Total Local Authority contribution	63,960.96
Defra contribution	220,363.00

North Wessex Downs AONB	2019/20 (£)
Hampshire County Council	8,855.00
Wiltshire Council	16,322.00
West Berkshire District Council	13,211.00
Oxfordshire County Council	7,299.00
Swindon Borough Council	5,121.00
Test Valley Borough Council	3,939.00
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	3,939.00
South Oxfordshire District Council	3,939.00
Vale of White Horse District Council	3,939.00
Total Local Authority contribution	66,564.00
Defra contribution	248,684.00

Chichester Harbour AONB	2019/20
Hampshire County Council	*
West Sussex County Council	*
Havant District Council	*
Chichester District Council	*
Defra contribution	148,900.00

* Local authority contributions to the AONB are provided by the Chichester Harbour Conservancy from the Precepts paid by Hampshire County Council and West Sussex County Council.

This page is intentionally left blank

7 fUbVcfbY'7\ UgY'DUfHbYfg\]d'D`Ub`

H\ Y'gHUi hcfmia UbUj Ya Ybhd`Ub`Zcf`H Y'7 fUbVcfbY'7\ UgY'5fYUcZ
Ci lgHUbX]b[`BUi fU`6 YUi Imi

Ministerial Foreword

I am fortunate that England's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are part of my Ministerial responsibilities. Whether it be rolling hills, sweeping coastline or a tranquil village, spending time in an AONB can stir the heart and lift the spirit.

This is a pivotal moment for all AONBs. The Government has set its ambition in the 25 Year Environment Plan which states clearly the importance of natural beauty as part of our green future, while AONBs retain the highest status of protection for landscape through national planning policy. Leaving the EU brings with it an opportunity to develop a better system for supporting our farmers and land managers, who play such a vital role as stewards of the landscape. And the Review of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty led by Julian Glover - the first of its kind for generations - will make recommendations to make sure our designated landscapes can flourish in the years ahead.

In my visits to AONBs around the country, I have been struck by the passion of many people - farmers, volunteers, and hard-working staff - for the beautiful places they live and work. In this spirit I am delighted to welcome publication of this Statutory Management Plan for Cranborne Chase AONB. It is significant that this plan will be delivered in partnership by those who value Cranborne Chase AONB. I would like to thank all those involved in preparation of this document, and wish you the best of success in bringing it to fruition.

Chairman's Foreword

(Awaiting text)

Executive summary

This AONB Partnership Plan is the management plan required by Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It sets out the policies of the partner local authorities for this AONB. They are Wiltshire and Dorset Councils; Hampshire and Somerset County Councils; and New Forest, Mendip and South Somerset District Councils

Following consultation with local communities, public bodies and agencies with an interest in the area, the Plan presents the special qualities and features of the AONB and determines what actions are required to ensure their

conservation and enhancement. It explains the significance of this AONB and describes its outstanding landscapes, focussing on conserving and enhancing them, sustaining living and working landscapes, and the special landscapes to enjoy.

1. What is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?

- 1.1. An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of the nation's finest landscapes. It is of high scenic quality that has statutory protection in order to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of its landscape. Designation is under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. The intent is to secure their permanent protection against any change or development that would damage their special qualities.
- 1.2. The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 brought in new measures to help protect AONBs further and, through a Ministerial Statement that year, the Government confirmed that the landscape qualities of National Parks and AONBs are equivalent. The protection given to both types of area by the land use planning system should therefore be equivalent. There are currently 46 AONBs in the UK. In all, AONB designation covers approximately 18 per cent of the land area of the UK.
- 1.3. Designation of the Cranborne Chase AONB was in 1981 and extends over 981 square kilometres (Map 1). The AONB is the sixth largest and is one of thirteen AONBs in the South West (Map 2). The majority of the AONB lies within the South West though 6.8% of the AONB (the Hampshire section) falls within the South East. In the South West, together with the two National Parks (Exmoor and Dartmoor), the family of protected areas cover some 38% of the countryside.

Primary purpose of designation

- 1.4. The primary purpose of AONB designation is 'conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area'¹.
- 1.5. In 1991, the Countryside Commission stated 'In pursuing the primary purpose of designation, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry and other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of economic and social development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.
- 1.6. Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.'²

¹ Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000: Section 82

² Countryside Commission Policy Statement on Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty 1991

What is natural beauty?

- 1.7. The primary purpose of AONB designation is rooted in 'natural beauty'. The term was enshrined in the 1949 Act when a romantic idea of scenic value prevailed. Over the years, qualification and amendment to the legislation has made it clear that natural beauty includes considerations such as wildlife, geological features and cultural heritage³. There is a useful definition in government guidance to AONB partnerships. "Natural Beauty" is not just the look of the landscape, but includes landform and geology, plants and animals, landscape features and the rich history of human settlement over the centuries⁴. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 clarified that land is not prevented from being treated as of natural beauty by the fact that it is used for agriculture, or woodlands, or as a park, or that its physiographical features are partly the product of human intervention in the landscape⁵.
- 1.8. This AONB is a cultural, living landscape by virtue of both the species and habitats within it but also due to its special qualities that human activity maintains. The natural beauty of the AONB is a blend of both the rich natural, historic and cultural heritage. The AONB Partnership believes that the presence of the expansive, open downlands, the many historic and literary associations, high levels of tranquillity, and the vast dark night skies comprise important elements of the natural beauty of the AONB. Those who manage the land are central to the future of this landscape. It is inevitable that this cultural landscape will continue to evolve but this needs to be in ways that conserve and enhance its special qualities.

International context

IUCN Protected Landscape

- 1.9. The AONB landscape is also of international importance. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recognise it as a Category V Protected Landscape by (*Appendix 1*). In 2013, the IUCN UK Committee reaffirmed the Category V status of all AONBs, confirming the significant contribution they make to conserve the UK's biodiversity.

European Landscape Convention

- 1.10. The European Landscape Convention (ELC) is a Treaty devoted exclusively to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe (*Appendix 2*). Crucially, the Convention encourages the integration of landscape matters into all relevant areas of national and local policy, including cultural, economic and social policies. The ELC defines landscape as "An area,

³ A draft statement on natural beauty, The University of Sheffield, January 2006

⁴ Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: A guide for AONB Partnership members, Countryside Commission, CA24, November 2001, p.6.

⁵ Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006: Section 99

as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.” (Council of Europe 2000)

- 1.11. There is a particular emphasis on the need for co-operation in undertaking programmes of landscape work that cross administrative and national boundaries. This AONB is in a prime position to showcase the UK’s commitment to the Convention.

2. What makes this particular area special?

Statement of Significance

- 2.1. Forming part of the extensive belt of chalkland that stretches across southern central England, the Cranborne Chase AONB⁶ is a landscape of national significance. Its special qualities flow from the historical interaction of humans and the land. They include its diversity, distinctiveness, sense of history and remoteness, dark night skies, tranquillity; and its overwhelmingly rural character. With mists slowly forming over expansive downlands, it can be a moody, evocative landscape. The sights and sounds of bygone times never far away. It is an unspoilt and aesthetically pleasing landscape.
- 2.2. Natural beauty is not just the visual appearance of the countryside. It includes the flora, fauna, geological and physiographical features; and the historic and cultural associations and our sensory perceptions of them. The combinations of these factors give each locality its own sense of place, contributing immensely to the quality of life.
- 2.3. The AONB designation embraces a collection of fine landscapes, each with its different landforms, soils and wildlife habitats. Whilst the chalk downland is a dominant feature, the escarpments, valleys, greensand terraces and clay vales reflect the geomorphology and impact of the underlying geology. Sometimes the changes between these landscapes are slow and gentle; in other cases, such as above and below escarpments, they are quite swift and obvious. Views across and along these landscapes can be wide and expansive whilst in the valleys they are more focussed and channelled. Unspoilt and panoramic views are characteristic of this AONB.
- 2.4. Hilltop earthworks, monuments, and tree clumps are features of the chalk downlands. They serve as landmarks to help orientate ourselves in these extensive landscapes. In historic terms, the landscapes of the AONB today are extraordinarily rich. Evidence of successive eras of human activity and settlements can often be lost: but not in this AONB. The landscapes offer up evidence of the imprint of man, carved out over the centuries; a continuous

⁶ Cranborne Chase AONB - shorter name. At the AONB Partnership Panel meeting of 9th January 2014, it was resolved that the shorter name ‘Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)’ would be used on a day to day basis from that date. The legal title ‘Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)’ remains in place and unaffected.

timeline throughout British history. Prehistoric monuments of national importance, historic borderlands, ancient field systems, droves and routeways all have stories to tell. The pioneering excavations and findings of General Pitt-Rivers, of the present day Rushmore Estate in Cranborne Chase, led to him being known as the 'father of modern archaeology'.

- 2.5. Eight thousand years ago, Neolithic peoples first started to change and manage this land. They built burial mounds and mysterious constructions, with many still seen today. The Bronze and Iron Ages saw the creation of large areas of pasture and arable farmland. The pastures on the downs date from this period. During the Anglo Saxon period, large landholdings began to change rural society. This was already a royal hunting area when the Normans invaded. They imposed forest law on the area then known as Cranborne Chase. However, agricultural expansion continued outside the Chase and by the fifteenth century, hedges and walls divided the land into large blocks. This trend continued as sheep production became very profitable and the wealthy built large houses with extensive parks. Forest law persisted in the Chase until 1829, leading to the retention of a high proportion of woodlands.
- 2.6. Since then, agriculture has changed rapidly but the settlement patterns are very similar to those that existed in the eighteenth century. There are more than 550 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, over 2,000 Listed Buildings and 17 Registered Parks and Gardens within the AONB.
- 2.7. The AONB is of great ecological importance. It has 5 internationally, and 60 nationally, protected sites. These range from ancient downland, chalk rivers and meadows to scattered semi-natural ancient woodland, which include remnants of the medieval Cranborne Chase royal hunting area and the former Royal Forests of Selwood and Gillingham. There are also around 520 sites of local importance for wildlife comprising just over 9% of the AONB.
- 2.8. Large, rectangular fields emphasise the open character of the chalk downs. The chalkland valley bottoms of the Rivers Wylye and Ebble are mainly in permanent pasture, with many copses and hedgerows, whilst the ridges and valley sides are predominantly arable. In the northwest, the sandstone fringe of wooded ridges and valleys includes rich parklands such as Longleat and Stourhead. Agriculture, and its associated businesses, is still a significant employer together with commercial forestry and limited mineral extraction. In fact the paucity of mineral extraction is a feature of this AONB.
- 2.9. The lush, wooded clay Vale of Wardour, harbouring the River Nadder, forms a broad wedge through the centre of the AONB, separating two large and distinct areas of largely arable chalk downland. To the south, there is the unusually wooded downland of Cranborne Chase itself, with its steeply cut coombes and dry valleys so typical of chalk landscapes. To the north, the West Wiltshire Downs are generally more elevated, rising up to Grovely Wood on the eastern ridge and from where, on a clear day, the huge chalkland plateau that is Salisbury Plain can be seen stretching northwards in the distance.
- 2.10. The Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (2003) draws together the features and attributes that contribute to the distinctive and outstanding

character of the AONB. It explores the physical, ecological, visual, historic and cultural forces that shape the present day dynamic, working landscape, encompassing its social, economic and recreational characteristics. It identifies eight Landscape Types, each with distinct and relatively homogenous character with similar physical and cultural attributes, including geology, landform, land cover, and historical evolution. Four cover the chalk landscapes, two the greensand areas, and one each the clay vale and the hills between the chalk and the heathland outside the AONB. The individual characteristics of the fifteen geographical Landscape Character Areas are set out in the LCA.

- 2.11. The Heritage Lottery funded (HLF) Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership scheme has supported a more detailed LCA (2018) of this part of the AONB. It has fourteen Local Landscape Character Areas, which nest within the broader character areas of the earlier assessment.
- 2.12. The Historic Landscape Characterisation (2008) describes and maps the historic and archaeological dimensions of the present day AONB landscape. Together with the Historic Environment Action Plans (2011), these two documents are a huge educational and management resource, charting the ever changing, living landscapes and the lives of those who made, and make, this their home; in essence a 'living library' and 'countryside encyclopaedia'.
- 2.13. Both local communities and visitors hold the immense cultural, historic and ecological riches in high esteem. The many diverse cultural associations include inspirational artists, writers, sculptors, poets, photographers and musicians. To name but a few, Heywood Sumner, Thomas Hardy, Desmond Hawkins, Cecil Beaton, Lucien Freud and Elisabeth Frink all took inspiration from Cranborne Chase and its hinterland. Cultural associations offer a greater awareness, understanding and appreciation of these evocative landscapes.
- 2.14. These aesthetic assets, together with panoramic views, dark skies awash with stars, the wealth of wildlife, plethora of historic sites, ancient droves and route ways, all offer opportunities for exploration, relaxation, walking and cycling. Residents and visitors alike turn to the landscapes and scenic beauty of the AONB to refresh the spirit as well as enhancing health and well-being. As sustainable rural tourism evolves, it offers growing support to this deeply rural economy.
- 2.15. This AONB is a deeply rural area with widely scattered hamlets, villages and narrow roads. This mainly agricultural landscape is sparsely populated, tranquil, and has no large settlements within its boundaries. Nearby market towns such as Salisbury, Shaftesbury, Blandford, Fordingbridge, Wimborne and Warminster are growth areas.

The setting of the AONB

- 2.16. The setting of an AONB is the surroundings in which the influence of the area is experienced. If the quality of the setting declines, then the appreciation and enjoyment of the AONB diminishes. The construction of high or expansive structures, or a change generating movement, noise, odour, vibration or dust

over a wide area, will affect the setting. As our appreciation of the relationships between neighbouring landscapes grows, so our understanding of what constitutes the setting continues to evolve.

- 2.17. Views are one element of setting, being associated with the visual experience and aesthetic appreciation. Views are particularly important to the AONB. This is because of the juxtaposition of high and low ground and the fact that recreational users value them. Without husbandry and management, views within, across, from and to the AONB may be lost or degraded.

3. A vision for this AONB

What is the Vision?

- 3.1. In 2030, the Cranborne Chase AONB will be an inspirational example of sustainable management in action.
- 3.2. A nationally appreciated place where:
- its distinctive local landscapes, historic heritage, and wildlife are conserved and enhanced by those who work and manage the land, nurturing a valued and treasured countryside for future generations;
 - its healthy soils, clean air and water are appreciated, prized and respected by all
 - its characteristic vibrant villages, profoundly rural character, and local sense of pride are tangible to all who live and visit here, or just pass through;
 - the breadth and depth of historic land use offers up its stories in the landscape today;
 - its cultural heritage is conserved, understood, enhanced, valued and enjoyed;
 - the aesthetic qualities of the landscape and environment, along with the sense of wonder and enjoyment, are appreciated by all; and
 - the quality of life remains high and the aspirations of those who live and work here are supported.

The AONB Partnership has a statutory duty to conserve and enhance natural beauty. This Partnership identifies the following three components:

Conserving and enhancing Outstanding Landscapes

Our Ambitions

- 5**
- The unique character, tranquillity and special qualities of the AONB landscapes are conserved and enhanced.
 - The area's special qualities are widely understood.
 - Informed decision-making strengthens the special qualities.

When change happens, it is consistent with the character of the landscape and the setting of the AONB.

We will take opportunities to restore landscape features that require it.

- 6**
- All natural resources in the AONB are sustainably managed.
 - Wildlife thrives in the AONB and is able to move freely around the area.
 - The natural environment to be healthy and resilient to the effects of climate change.
- 7**
- The historic and cultural environment of the AONB is conserved and enhanced.
 - Everyone understands, values and enjoys its cultural and heritage assets.

The story of the area's evolution over time should be clear to everyone.

Light pollution will be minimised to benefit of human health, wildlife, reducing expenditure and carbon emissions, bringing new opportunities for education and rural tourism.

Conserving and enhancing Living and Working Landscapes

Our Ambitions

- 5 • • Our rural land is sustainably managed.

This will meet the demand for food, fuel and other produce in ways that conserve and enhance the landscape character of the AONB and deliver increased public benefits.

- 6 • • A thriving rural economy ensures economic and social wellbeing and helps sustain the landscape. Local communities appreciate and care for the AONB; residents enjoy a high quality of life.

- 7 • • Planning and transportation strategies, policies and decisions that affect this nationally important AONB, conserve and enhance its special qualities.

Where development is, on balance, deemed necessary, we want it located and designed to integrate fully with the landscape character and natural beauty.

- 8 • • All management of, and improvements to, roads enhances the distinctive character of the area.
- A range of more sustainable options for transport reduces the effects of transport on tranquillity and the natural environment of the AONB.

- 9 • • Partners' policies and actions reflect AONB values and their national status.
- Communities appreciate and care for the AONB.
- Residents enjoy a high quality of life.

Conserving and enhancing Special Landscapes to Enjoy

Our Ambitions

- 5 • • The area's special qualities and landscape character, its traditions, and its historic and natural assets are understood and valued by all.

- Everyone understands what the AONB designation means and why the area was designated.
- Everyone promotes and supports the AONB.
- 6 • • People learn about the natural, historic, and cultural heritage of the AONB.
- 7 • • People of all ages, abilities and backgrounds have the opportunity to take up countryside skills, training, and volunteering in the AONB.
- 8 • • People's physical and mental wellbeing is improved through experiencing the high quality environment of the AONB for physical activity, relaxation and inspiration.

3.3. By the end of this Plan period, substantial and measurable progress will have been made in five priority areas of work:

By the end of this plan period

Our five priorities

- The profile of Cranborne Chase AONB will be significantly raised through signage, community events and activities; and significantly enhanced communications
- The dark night skies of this AONB will be conserved and enhanced with the benefits valued and appreciated by communities and visitors alike
- Extensive collaboration with farmers, foresters, landowners, relevant agencies and local communities will champion integrated, enhanced management of the AONB's landscapes delivering measurable enhancements to the AONB's natural and historic environment, showcasing partnership working within a designated landscape
- Led by field based staff, there will be multiple opportunities for volunteers of all ages and abilities to help conserve and enhance the landscapes of the AONB whilst improving health and wellbeing
- The suite of projects within the Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme bid will measurably enhance the natural, historic and cultural environments of this AONB

Who is going to make it happen?

- 3.4. The AONB Partnership developed and agreed the Vision after listening to the many people who care about this very special place. The AONB Partnership is an alliance of fifteen national and local organisations and it steers the implementation of the Management Plan (*Appendix 3 and Section 18*).
- 3.5. Wiltshire Council contains the largest proportion of the AONB and is host Authority for the AONB Team. The Team prepares the AONB Management Plan on behalf of the Partnership. The team also delivers a considerable number of projects within the annual Delivery Plan. In addition, the team undertakes the overall facilitation and coordination of Management Plan implementation by partners.
- 3.6. The Vision is a call for action. Landowners, farmers, local people, visitors, and the many organisations working in the AONB, or who have a contribution to make to it, must unite and work together to achieve this Vision.

4. What is an AONB Management Plan?

- 4.1. Local authorities that have an AONB within their area must prepare and publish a management plan. This plan ‘formulates their policy for the management of their area of outstanding natural beauty and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it’. It has to be reviewed every five years⁷.
- 4.2. All public bodies and persons holding public office have a statutory duty to ‘have regard’ to the ‘purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area’⁸ when making decisions affecting land in an AONB (*Appendix 4*).
- 4.3. This document is the third review of the Cranborne Chase AONB Management Plan first published in 2004. This plan runs from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2024. It is a statutory document and forms an important role in the delivery of services by the local authorities. It is a plan for all those that have a responsibility to look after this precious and treasured landscape. The plan sets out realistic objectives and policies for AONB partners to achieve in the next five years. Working together, these targets can be realised to the benefit of the landscapes and communities of this nationally designated area. The review process is set out in *Appendix 5*.

How does the management plan fit with the policies and plans of others?

- 4.4. National and local policies already provide a considerable level of protection for the natural beauty of the AONB. In addition, many partner organisations prepare strategies and plans that deal with a range of other issues that affect

⁷ Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000: Section 89

⁸ Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000: Section 85

the area (such as the management of development, transport, tourism, recreation, energy, water resources, and biodiversity).

- 4.5. These policies, plans and strategies will inform the AONB Management Plan. Implementation of this Management Plan will complement them and influence the preparation and delivery of other key policies, plans and processes affecting the area. This covers, for example, Local Plans and other planning documents; and Sustainable Community Strategies. An explanation of the policy context is set out in *Appendix 6*.

Who approves the plan?

- 4.6. Many people and organisations commented on this Management Plan during its preparation. The plan was subject to assessments under European directives and to public consultation between August and November 2018. The AONB Partnership (*see section 18*) endorses the plan and relevant local authorities have formally adopted it. It is published with the assistance of the partners who are responsible for much of the plan's delivery. The Partnership Board will review the Partnership Delivery Plan, which sets out the programme for achieving the Management Plan's ambitions and objectives, annually.

This Management Plan, the Strategic Environmental Assessment, the Habitat Regulations Assessment, and supporting documents are all available on the Cranborne Chase AONB website: www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk

You can make enquiries about these documents to the Cranborne Chase AONB team through the website or via info@cranbornechase.org.uk

5. Context for this Partnership Plan

- 5.1. This statutory document is not prepared in isolation. In addition to extensive local consultation, there is a need to consider the wider context. Farmland and woodland dominate the landscapes of the AONB. Changes in these land uses will always have a major influence on the natural beauty of the area.

External factors

- 5.2. Four main factors are external to the AONB but will have ongoing effects on it:
- national legislation, strategies, and policies
 - Britain's exit from the European Union
 - climate change
 - economic conditions, fluctuating world demand and prices

- 5.3. Whilst the Partnership cannot pro-actively influence these four factors, it can help to influence local and national responses to them. It will make every effort to respond to the impacts they have. They are currently facts of everyday life that we need to be aware of, keep up to date with, and act accordingly. They are accepted as strands that run throughout this document.

National legislation, strategies, and policies

- 5.4. National and international legislation and regulations are largely outside the influence of AONB partnerships, even though they may have opportunities to contribute to consultations on changes. These can encompass species protection through to pollution control; and communications and transport through to environmental and animal health regulations. The Partnership operates within the English legislative framework.
- 5.5. Governmental guidance and ministerial statements can lead to changes of direction. Partners need to be light on their feet and responsive in their application to AONB situations. The focus and emphasis of national government can change relatively quickly.
- 5.6. The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan is a welcome example. This sets out action to help the natural world regain and retain good health. It aims to deliver cleaner air and water in our cities and rural landscapes, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats. It calls for an approach to agriculture, forestry, land use and fishing that puts the environment first⁹. It also commits to undertaking a review of National Parks and AONBs.
- 5.7. Equally welcome are the Clean Growth Strategy, Industrial Strategy and the expected Environment Bill, each in articulating the interconnections and interdependencies of environmental protection and enhancements, with the economy and society.
- 5.8. The review of English AONBs and National Parks, led by Julian Glover, will consider whether there is scope for the current network of 34 AONBs and 10 National Parks in England to expand, in either size or number. It will report on the options for improving access to these landscapes, and on the support needed by those who live and work in them. It will also explore the role these designations have in growing the rural economy. DEFRA has made it clear that weakening or undermining existing protections or geographic scope is not be part of the review.
- 5.9. The review will report in 2019 (the 70th Anniversary of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act). This is after the adoption and publication of this Management Plan; there may be a need to reassess our policy positions in the light of the review's findings.
- 5.10. Particularly concerning is the Government's proposal to boost housing supply and, over the long term, create a more efficient housing market whose outcomes more closely match the needs and aspirations of all households; and

⁹ The Government, A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, HMSO, 2018

which supports wider economic prosperity¹⁰. The drive to build ever more houses is more relevant to the countryside around urban areas but there are implications for the AONB. The context of the planning processes is set out in detail in a separate section of this chapter.

Britain's Withdrawal from the European Union

- 5.11. The uncertainty of this fundamental change to life in this country is highly likely to impact on this AONB; most probably through the direct and indirect effects of changes to farming and forestry. In turn, there are likely to be impacts on our landscapes.
- 5.12. DEFRA statements and consultation documents are clear that in future 'public money for public goods' will be the basis for financial contributions to farming¹¹. Money will be for conservation and environmental gains that benefit the public at large. It will not be simply to support commercial farming activities. These changes will not happen overnight. DEFRA has indicated that there will be an 'agricultural transition period' during which time some funds will be withdrawn from existing support mechanisms in order to fund pilot projects that, for example, restore healthy soils, improve air quality, provide clean water, and enable the countryside to teem with wildlife. The outcomes of the new Agriculture Bill in 2019 are currently awaited.
- 5.13. This AONB sees this transition to 'public money for public goods' as an exciting opportunity for AONBs in general and this AONB in particular. As farming covers 86% of the area¹², Cranborne Chase AONB is already in discussions about pilot projects. DEFRA wants 'a more dynamic, more self-reliant agriculture industry as we continue to compete internationally, supplying products of the highest standards to the domestic market and increasing exports. But, alongside this, we want a reformed agricultural and land management policy to deliver a better and richer environment in England'¹³.
- 5.14. This AONB is in a strong position to play a positive role in developing new 'agri-environment' schemes. It has an impressive track record of working collaboratively with farmers and landowners in farm clusters, and on other farm conservation projects. It has good linkages with research institutions, universities, commercial sponsors and professional bodies.

Climate change

- 5.15. 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)¹⁴, the Government and local authorities. Whilst the rate of change

¹⁰ Department for Communities and Local Government, Fixing our broken housing market, Cm Paper 9352 HMSO, February 2017

¹¹ See Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit, Cmd paper 9577, HMSO, February 2018

¹² Defra (June 2016): Survey of Agriculture - Land use, livestock and agricultural workforce on commercial holdings

¹³ Paragraph 5, DEFRA, Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit, Cmd paper 9577, HMSO, February 2018

¹⁴ The UKCIP web site as the authoritative source for scientifically sound research and government policy.

appears to be slowing, this is still a global issue that the AONB itself is unable to greatly influence. There is a broad consensus on the likely changes to the climate of southern England, and therefore the Cranborne Chase AONB, over the next few decades
(Appendix 9).

5.16. The evidence of recent years is that :

- summers are becoming warmer and drier
- winters are becoming milder and wetter
- extreme weather conditions are becoming more frequent

5.17. These changes have the potential to affect the landscapes, wildlife and communities of the AONB. The range of crops grown by farmers will change and water flows in rivers and streams could become more erratic. Habitats may expand, contract or shift faster than local species can migrate. New species may enter the area, some bringing disease or pests that will harm 'native' species. Or they may compete with the 'native' species for food and shelter. Tourism pressures could increase as more people decide to holiday in the UK. All of these factors could affect which flora and fauna can flourish in the area¹⁵.

5.18. Climate change mitigation describes measures or actions aimed at reducing the long-term risk and hazards of climate change. Climate change adaptation describes measures or actions that help individuals, groups and natural systems to prepare for and respond to changes in the climate. Alongside other organisations and individuals, the AONB Partnership will seek to build resilience and will support and promote mitigation and adaptation measures wherever practicable.

Economic conditions, fluctuating world demand and prices

5.19. The UK economy has been in recession with periods of slow, or minimal, growth since 2008. Government and Local Authority budgets have been cut, whilst the demand for services remains. Many charity and volunteer organisations have felt the effects.

5.20. When it comes to financing AONB initiatives and management activities, the competition for grant funding through various programmes is now more intense than ever. This is mainly from a noticeable increase in applications. Competing for scarce grants is a significant drain on team resources. More so in situations where core funds are tightly constrained.

5.21. Specific reference to the tightened economic conditions is in the Rural Economy section of the Plan. It is clear, however, that whether it is agriculture, a village shop, numbers of visitors, public transport, or the type of planning

www.ukcip.org.uk

¹⁵ 'Natural Solutions to a changing climate on the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase', 2010

applications received, the current austere economic conditions affect every facet of life.

- 5.22. There are fluctuations in the price for cereals and associated products as well as variable costs of growing those products. This is making it hard to predict future profits from arable farming. Livestock farming is crucial to the management of special habitats, like chalk grassland. It experiences considerable variations in costs and returns. Profits have been in decline for some time.
- 5.23. The fluctuating market for UK timber has had a pronounced effect on the area's woodlands. Many woodlands no longer produce significant volumes of timber. They are often more valuable for game management, recreation, or conservation than timber products. However, the increasing demand for carbon neutral wood-fuels may support some woodland management.
- 5.24. Britain's drawn out withdrawal from Europe, and DEFRA's development of new agri-environment schemes in England, each add uncertainty for farming over the period of this AONB Management Plan. The direct effects on farming practices will influence the extent to which farmers undertake conservation work as part of their operations.
- 5.25. At a global scale, the fluctuating demands for food and timber worldwide have direct impacts on market conditions. It is a very uncertain market. Ever changing demand and prices make planning and developing businesses difficult.

The statutory planning processes

- 5.26. This AONB works in parallel with its constituent Local Planning Authorities (LPAs). In particular, at a time when there is a shortage of experienced landscape staff, the AONB team can contribute positively to landscape matters and the statutory role of 'conserving and enhancing natural beauty'. It does so at both the policy formulation and the development management stages. The AONB does not have an enforcement role.
- 5.27. The LPAs of the AONB have adopted their Core Strategies / Local Plans and are embarking upon reviews of their housing strategies in response to Government's concerns about the availability of dwellings. These Core Strategies / Local Plans will be the primary local planning policy documents for the coming 10 - 15 years. Therefore, it is important that these policies address AONB topics clearly and appropriately.
- 5.28. On 24th July 2018 the Government issued a revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹⁶ (Appendix 7). Key elements relating to AONBs having the 'highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty' are retained. There is emphasis on seeking social, economic, and environmental improvements in concert through the planning process. The

¹⁶ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework, HMSO, July 2018

clear implication is that one aspect, for example the economic benefits, does not override the others. The presumption in favour of sustainable development is restricted by policies that relate to AONBs and National Parks (NPPF Para 11, footnote 6). Whilst 'the scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited', and 'planning permission should be refused for major development' the definition of major development is deemed not to apply to AONBs and National Parks. (see *Appendix 22*).

- 5.29. Within AONBs, more restrictive policies apply, than outside a protected area. There is clear support for the protection of AONBs – 'which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty' – and [fYUhi k Y][\ h should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty. Furthermore, the guidance is to fYZ gY planning permission for major developments in AONBs except in exceptional circumstances; and where there is a clear demonstration that they are in the public interest.
- 5.30. There is currently concern about the requirement for Local Authorities to identify at least a five year supply of housing land. This can lead to opportunistic, rather than carefully evaluated, development proposals.
- 5.31. Most people encounter the planning process through planning applications and development management processes. This seems to be getting more difficult for applicants to deal with, despite statements to the contrary by Government. Although established features of the process, changes to permitted development rights, charging for planning applications and pre-application advice, and making provision for the community infrastructure levy, all serve to suggest that the planning process is increasingly complicated.
- 5.32. The Localism Act 2011 and the NPPF make provision for Neighbourhood Plans (*Appendix 8*) and Neighbourhood Development Orders at a parish, or group of parishes, level. These plans can increase the amount of development, and speed up the implementation of that development, as long as they are compliant with the relevant Core Strategy / Local Plan. Such neighbourhood plans must be approved by a local referendum. Village Plans and Village Design Statements are separate matters. If appropriately prepared, the planning authority can adopt them as Supplementary Planning Documents.
- 5.33. The AONB team has been involved with a number of Neighbourhood Plan groups. There is a concern that parish councillors may be generally unaware of their statutory 'duty of regard' to conserving and enhancing natural beauty in AONBs. They do not always understand the legal significance of AONBs. Nor do they appreciate the limited executive powers of AONBs.

What the natural environment means to people

- 5.34. The natural world touches our lives every day. Whether we live in a city, rural village, or in the wider countryside, we rely on natural systems and landscape functions to support us. Our natural environment underpins our health, wealth and happiness and gives us a sense of place, pride and identity.

- 5.35. An AONB is a particularly special and healthy natural environment where a wide understanding of ‘conserving and enhancing natural beauty’ is especially relevant. A healthy natural environment helps local authorities in their responsibilities to:
- support economic regeneration and social care,
 - improve public health and well-being,
 - improve educational outcomes,
 - reduce crime and antisocial behaviour,
 - help communities adapt to climate change; and
 - improve the quality of life across an entire area.
 - control flooding
- 5.36. Land managers have shaped our landscapes and wildlife heritage over thousands of years. Some 96% of the AONB’s land is under agricultural or woodland management¹⁷. The decisions that farmers and land managers take determine, largely, whether society can achieve its ambitions for clean air and water, abundant wildlife, healthy soil and food production.
- 5.37. Like other AONB Partnerships, a landscape functions approach is used that values, sustains and promotes the benefits that the natural environment of the AONB provides for society. These include clean air and water, carbon storage and other services vital to the nation’s health and well-being¹⁸.
- 5.38. A Natural Capital approach (*Appendix 11*) considers the relationships between these natural assets, the services they support and the benefits derived from them.
- 5.39. An appreciation and valuation of our ‘Natural Capital’ makes explicit the link between the health of natural systems and the natural goods and services that support human well-being, as well as Government’s own work on this topic¹⁹. It seeks to maintain the integrity and functioning of whole natural systems to avoid rapid, undesirable ecological change. The national network of Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) has been established to champion the idea of valuing nature. The AONB Partnership will continue to work with relevant LNPs across the four Counties to achieve this end.
- 5.40. Local Authorities in the AONB either have developed or are developing Green Infrastructure (GI) (*Appendix 12*) policies for their areas. GI is the physical environment within and between the towns and villages. It is a network of open spaces, including formal parks, gardens and woodlands; the green corridors, waterways, street trees; and countryside. The aim is to deliver multiple benefits to people and wildlife. These include the improvement and linking of habitats for

¹⁷ Natural England (2014), Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes, NE 31 March 2014

¹⁸ Defra and Natural England advice note to AONB Partnerships 2012

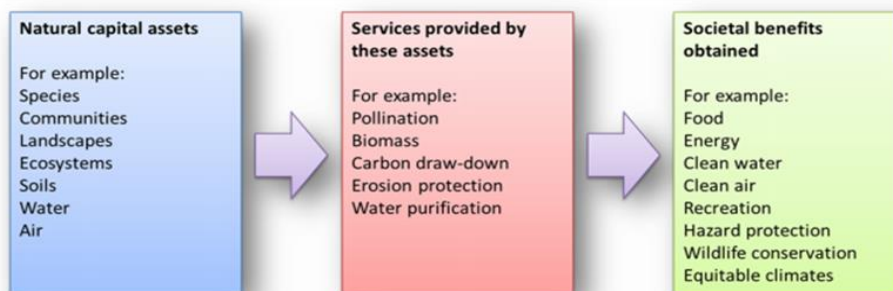
¹⁹ The Government, A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, HMSO, 2018

wildlife and increased opportunities for open air recreation, and improved health and well-being for people.

Benefits from the natural environment

- 5.41. The Natural Capital Committee (NCC) is an independent body that provides advice to the government on the sustainable use of natural capital (our natural assets). These assets are the **gltcW** of renewable and non-renewable resources that combine to yield a flow of benefits to people. They include the stock of forests, rivers, land and minerals. The **gYfj JWG** that flow from this stock of resources are known as ecosystem and abiotic services. These give **VYbYZhg** that have a value to businesses and society.
- 5.42. The concept of Natural Capital is likely to become increasingly important. At the time of writing this Management Plan, the NCC is working with the Office for National Statistics in developing national natural capital accounts; with the Treasury in refining the Green Book; and with DEFRA in developing the best way to measure long term outcomes.
- 5.43. Table 1 below shows relationship between natural capital assets, the services they provide and the benefits to society.

7\ Ufh% Relationship between the stock of natural capital assets, the services they provide and the benefits to society



Taken from The Natural Capital Committee, 'How to do it: a natural capital workbook', April 2017

- 5.44. In order to maintain natural systems, the value of environmental goods and services needs consideration. There must be an appreciation of the future costs arising from any increase in environmental risks from actions that affect the AONB. This Management Plan aims to sustain the area's natural capital. Work began during 2019 to develop natural capital accounting for Cranborne Chase AONB and this will continue to be progressed through close working with all relevant partners, organisations and communities.

(Principles of Natural Capital Accounting, Feb 2017

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/methodologies/principlesofnaturalcapitalaccounting>

Four principles on which this Plan is founded

- 5.45. The statutory purposes of AONB designation are 'conserving and enhancing natural beauty'. This Management Plan sets out how the Local Authorities and

their partners aim to achieve those purposes. With this in mind, four principles provide a framework for managing change within this AONB. These are:

1. **DUFbYfg\]d'K cf]b[** – Working together creates ownership of issues and solutions. Furthermore, the AONB Partnership does not have the resources to undertake all the work set out in this Plan. It is vital that current and new partners work together to achieve its objectives.
2. **@bXgWUdY'GWU'5 ddfcUW** – An AONB is a nationally important landscape. The focus is on sustaining landscape character and qualities. Sites and projects within the AONB will not be seen in isolation. The landscape-scale approach involves enlarging, improving and joining up areas of land. This will create a connected environmental network across the AONB, for the benefit of the land, wildlife, and people.
3. **@bXgWUdY': i bWjcbg** - or what the landscape provides for us. The landscapes of the AONB provide us with many 'goods and services' (see Chart 1); these need sustaining. They range from measurable things, like fresh food, clean water, healthy soils, sustainable energy and clean air; and less easily defined benefits, such as inspiration, awareness, health and well-being. The objectives in this Plan all aim to conserve and enhance these landscape functions. 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. This approach has three strands:
 - i. The natural systems that operate within the AONB are complex and dynamic, and their healthy functioning should not be taken for granted.
 - ii. Those that live, work and visit the AONB all benefit from services provided by the natural environment.
 - iii. Those that benefit from the services provided within the AONB, and those who are involved in the management of them, should play a central role in making decisions.
4. **Gi gHJbUV'Y8 Yj Y cda Ybh**- 'Development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'²⁰. This means that within this AONB, great weight is given to conserving and enhancing natural beauty. Development has to be in the right location, at the right scale and of the right design using the right materials. The principle of sustainable development underpins this Plan (*Appendix 15*).

²⁰ Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission), *Our Common Future*, published by Oxford University Press (1987)

6. Plan structure

- 6.1. Building on the purposes of designation, the issues affecting the AONB are presented under three themes:
- Conserving and enhancing - Outstanding Landscapes
 - Conserving and enhancing - Living and Working Landscapes
 - Conserving and enhancing - Special Landscapes to Enjoy
- 6.2. These themes are prefaced by an overview of the landscape character types, their special qualities, and associated spatial issues. They are then separated into nine topics, which are followed by four aspects of 'getting things done':

Outstanding Landscapes

Landscape (*chapter 8*)

Natural Environment (*chapter 9*)

Historic and Cultural Environment (*chapter 10*)

Dark Night Skies (*chapter 11*)

Living and Working Landscapes

Rural Land Management (*chapter 12*)

Planning and Transport (*chapter 13*)

Sustaining Rural Communities (*chapter 14*)

Special Landscapes to Enjoy

Awareness and Understanding (*chapter 15*)

Wellbeing, Involvement and Learning (*chapter 16*)

For each of the nine topics, the plan includes:

- **GdYwU'7\ UFUWYfJghWg'UbX'ei UJhYg'** These are the particular features, for each element, that are distinctive in this AONB
- **H Y'5 a VJhcbg'** combine to form the 'Vision' for the AONB – Achieving the ambitions will make a significant difference to the AONB.
- **?Ym5 W JYj Ya Ybfg'** Work the AONB and partners have already undertaken.
- **H Y'?Ym-ggi Yg'** Many issues affect the AONB. The key issues are those to address during the life of this plan.
- **H Y'-ggi Yg'9I d'UJbYX'** This is information that explains the key issues

in more detail.

- **CV^Wj Yg!** Specific things (not in any order of priority) to achieve in order to make progress towards the ambition. Wherever possible, these are measurable, with a realistic timescale for completion.
- **Dc`jYg!** How to achieve the objectives.

- 6.3. The nine sections are not a checklist of all the activities that affect the AONB. Rather, they provide a framework for setting out the range of topics relevant to the statutory purpose for designating the area as an AONB.
- 6.4. A final section looks at how the Management Plan will be implemented over the next five years.

Getting Things Done

The AONB Partnership (*chapter 17*)

Funding (*chapter 18*)

Implementation (*chapter 19*)

Monitoring and Evaluation (*chapter 20*)

- 6.5. None of the sections of this plan operates in isolation. There are many connections between them. Many of the objectives and policies relate to more than just the topic in which they appear. Tackling the issues identified depends upon integrated action. Action taken to achieve one set of objectives should complement and reinforce the achievement of objectives elsewhere in the Plan (*Appendix 14*).
- 6.6. The AONB Team and Partnership are catalysts for action. Rather than set out work for a five year period, the Partnership feels that an annual Delivery Plan can best reflect the changing circumstances, opportunities and resources of the 2019 – 2024 period. This will include an annual review of the work undertaken by all players to implement this Management Plan.
- 6.7. Maps referred to in the plan are in a separate booklet at the back of this document.

7. Landscape character, qualities and spatial issues

Introduction

- 7.1. The characteristics and qualities of the landscapes of this AONB are the primary justification for the designation of the area to conserve and enhance its natural beauty for the nation.
- 7.2. Their description is by broad landscape **W UFWYf hndYž** and specific landscape **W UFWYf UFYU**. The **_YniW UFWYf]ghWg** of the landscape types are set out here to provide an understanding of the scope, range, and scale of these landscape qualities. Further details of the character of the landscape areas are in both the *Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (2003)* and the briefer *Sustaining Landscape Character (2006)*.
- 7.3. The inherent sensitivities of the landscapes of this AONB are set out in the *Landscape Sensitivity Study (2007)*. A detailed *Historic Landscape Characterisation (2008)* supplements the *Integrated Landscape Character Assessment*. In addition, *Historic Environment Action Plans (2012)* gives topic by topic, and area by area, advice for sustaining our cultural heritage. The booklet, *A Landscape view of trees and woodlands (2009)*, addresses the contributions trees, woodlands, and their associated habitats make to landscape matters.
- 7.4. There is a more refined landscape character assessment for the Heritage Lottery funded Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership project area (2018). It identifies 14 local Landscape Character Areas and provides greater detail on the character and qualities of these central parts of this AONB.
- 7.5. This wealth of information and analysis contributes to our understanding of the character of the AONB. To gain a full understanding of the character and qualities of this AONB requires a study of all the highlighted documents.

You can download all the supporting documents from the Cranborne Chase AONB website at <http://www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk/publications/planning-related-publications/>

Issues and Challenges

- 7.6. There are issues and challenges faced by the landscapes and communities of Cranborne Chase AONB that apply to many or most landscape character types. Whilst the viability of family farms and development pressures arising from demographic changes are two examples, the challenges of renewable

energy are probably the most widespread. The growing of crops, such as oil seeds and biomass, on agricultural land as alternative fuels stimulates a debate on whether farms are primarily food or fuel producers. Proposals to install fields of photovoltaic (PV) panels provide an additional strand to that debate. They also bring about long term changes to the appearance of the countryside. However, the increasing popularity of wood-burning stoves, and the associated need for wood-fuel, can provide a new economic reason for managing farm woodlands.

- 7.7. Visually intrusive energy and communications developments affect not just the aesthetics of the AONB landscapes and associated views; they also affect the integrity of the finest of the nation's landscapes.
- 7.8. The appearance, and appreciation, of the AONB from areas outside relates to all landscape types; as do the qualities of the views to and from the AONB. This is particularly relevant to the escarpment, hill, and downland landscapes. Their elevated positions make possible long and wide ranging views. The areas within those views contribute to the setting of the AONB, an aspect that is of increasing value for heritage assets.
- 7.9. Awareness of the significance of Ancient Woodlands and Veteran Trees has increased. Nevertheless, action is largely voluntary, and often dependent on the skills and enthusiasm of a few individuals. Furthermore, there are parts of this AONB where trees and hedges are not typical or historically significant features. In these areas, well-intentioned planting continues to change and block extensive views of the open downlands. New planting should take full account of landscape character and historic features.
- 7.10. The availability of funding for incentives and actions to conserve and enhance at a landscape scale is a challenge for the whole AONB.
- 7.11. The changes to agricultural support and agri-environment schemes flowing from the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union will occur during the period of this Management Plan. Government is taking forward the Natural Capital concept, seeking to sustain and enhance the nation's natural assets. Linked with this, DEFRA states that there will be an agricultural transition period to implement a 'public goods for public money' approach to future schemes. The clear intention is that farmers will then receive funding for the environmental benefits they provide rather than the volume of their products or the extent of their holding.
- 7.12. Defra has called for tests or trials to help evaluate the basis for any new agri-environment schemes. This AONB Partnership has considerable experience working with, and facilitating, self-help farm clusters to enhance farmland wildlife and habitats. It is happy to engage pro-actively with any tests or trials within potential new agri-environment schemes. Further refinement of landscape character data is, therefore, likely.
- 7.13. This appraisal outlines the landscape characteristics and qualities of the eight landscape types of this AONB. It then focuses on the additional issues and challenges that are particularly pertinent to each of them. The Management

Plan policies and actions seek to address these issues and to reinforce and enhance landscape character.

Landscape type 1: Chalk Escarpments

This Landscape Type comprises the following Landscape Areas:

Character Area 1A - Melbury to Blandford Chalk Escarpment

Character Area 1B - West Wiltshire Downs Chalk Escarpment

Character Area 1C - Fovant and Chalke Chalk Escarpment

- Dramatic chalk escarpments eroded into spurs and deep coombes, with a generally sharp transition from the associated downlands
- Underlying geology of Lower, Middle and Upper Chalk giving rise to predominantly thin calcareous soils
- Areas of unimproved chalk grassland of international importance, traditionally maintained by livestock grazing
- Steepness of slope leads to an absence of farmsteads and settlements
- Field systems on lower slopes, including strip lynchets, close to Medieval villages sited along the spring line
- Improved pasture and arable fields occupy the shallower, more accessible slopes where straight-sided fields represent late 18th / early 19th century enclosure
- Cross dykes and Bronze Age features on the escarpment edge
- Hanging woodland and sunken lanes are features of the steep, enclosing chalk coombes
- Tracks and bridleways typically follow diagonal routes across the steep slopes
- Panoramic views over adjacent landscapes

Issues and challenges

- Decreases in livestock grazing leading to loss of grassland habitat to scrub
- Visibility of changes within the landscape and areas round it
- A350 corridor, intensification of use and highway paraphernalia, and potential visibility of any development
- Maintenance of heritage assets
- Visibility of changes within the A30 corridor and associated Greensand Terrace fields
- Management and renovation of Fovant Badges (and similar features)

- Conservation of historic features

Landscape type 2: Open Chalk Downland

This Landscape Type comprises the following Landscape Areas:

Character Area 2A West Wiltshire Downs

Character Area 2B Southern Downland Belt

- Large-scale landform of broad rolling hills interspersed by wide valleys, some with high quality chalk rivers whilst others are seasonal or dry
- Dominated by Upper Chalk geology with drift clay and flint capping, with associated woodland and eye-catching tree clumps, on higher ground
- A predominantly arable landscape divided into large, rectangular units with straight-sided fields representing late 18th / early 19th century enclosure from extensive open grazing areas
- Remnant chalk grassland, ancient broad-leaved woodland, and yew woodland are important habitats
- Beech trees line lanes and comprise formal avenues
- Large blocks of woodland and coppice contrast with the open arable fields
- Main roads cut across the undulating landscape linking major settlements on either side of the AONB
- Ancient route ways follow east-west ridges
- Large open skies and extensive panoramic views
- Low density scattered settlement of farmsteads and the occasional downland village
- Numerous Neolithic burial and ritual monuments and Bronze Age barrows
- Later pre-historic and Romano-British ditches and defensive 'castle' earthworks

Issues and challenges

- Arable crop changes influenced by globalisation, commodity prices, farm inputs and costs impacting on both the aesthetics and the landscape functions
- Exposed transport corridors - A303 / A350 / A354 - intensification of use and highway paraphernalia, and potential visibility of any development
- Erosion and truncation of Ancient Monuments
- Hedge planting blocking views and modifying the open, expansive, character
- Fertilizer use and impacts on aquifers

- Visual and soil impacts of extensive pig keeping
- Rectangular, unsympathetic, 20th century game coverts

Landscape type 3: Wooded Chalk Downland

This Landscape Type comprises the following Landscape Area:

Character Area 3A Cranborne Chase

- An elevated downland landscape with dramatic intersecting coombe valleys and rounded upstanding ridges
- Dominated by an Upper Chalk geology with drift clay with flints capping higher ground
- A well wooded landscape with large woods, shelter belts, copses and clumps creating a series of enclosed spaces or 'rooms' surrounded by trees
- Beech lined lanes and tracks criss-cross the downland
- Mosaic of unenclosed downland, improved grassland and arable fields, often dating from 19th century enclosure, between the woodland
- Chalk grassland, ancient woodland, and coppice provide important nature conservation habitats
- Typically low density, scattered settlement of individual farmsteads with the occasional downland village or Medieval hunting lodge
- Visible archaeological features including Neolithic long barrows, Bronze Age round barrows, prehistoric to Romano-British earthworks and field systems
- Panoramic views from upstanding chalk ridges to adjacent ridges and into valleys / coombes

Issues and challenges

- Conservation of heritage / archaeological interests
- Impacts of climate change on mixed farming and forestry / ancient woodlands
- Connectivity between woodlands and maintenance of enclosures
- Hedge and screen planting, coupled with reduced management, blocking views and modifying character
- Declining coppice management

Landscape type 4: Downland Hills

This Landscape Type comprises the following Landscape Area:

Character Area 4A Martin - Whitsbury Downland Hills

- A series of small scale but prominent hills and knolls
- Dominated by Upper Chalk geology giving rise to argyllic brown earths
- Land cover is slightly more arable than grassland, with improved pasture on lower ground towards the river valleys
- Dominated by a pattern of medium to large Parliamentary enclosure type fields
- Deciduous and coniferous woodland, clothing the crests of the slopes, silhouetted against the skyline
- Low density, dispersed settlement pattern of scattered farmsteads
- The absence of major roads contributes to the feeling of remoteness and tranquillity
- A number of ancient woodlands including Burwood, Ashwood Copse and Bouldsbury Wood (SSSI)
- Neolithic and Bronze Age burial monuments, prehistoric and Romano-British enclosures, settlements, field systems and hill forts contribute to the plethora of visible, historic features of the landscape
- Panoramic views from hill tops

Issues and challenges

- Conservation of archaeology and ancient woodlands
- Development pressures on the villages
- 'Horsiculture' and changes in sense of place
- Decrease in agricultural stock grazing

Landscape type 5: Chalk River Valleys

This Landscape Type comprises the following Landscape Areas:

Character Area 5A Wylve Chalk River Valley

Character Area 5B Ebble Chalk River Valley

Character Area 5C Stour and Avon Tributary Valleys

- Strongly enclosing valley sides, frequently eroded to form dry valleys, but in some places quite wide (eg Ebble)
- The steepest valley slopes have retained their semi--natural chalk grassland or are clothed in 'hanging' woodland while the shallow valley sides have been exploited for cultivation

- The clear, fast-flowing chalk rivers are a key habitat
- The floodplains support water meadows, cress beds and damp pasture
- The valleys typically provide convenient transport corridors, with the Wylve valley containing a trunk road and railway
- The rural landscapes are sometimes interrupted by the large volumes of traffic that use the valleys as transport corridors to organised events
- Straight-sided fields represent late 18th/early 19th century Parliamentary enclosure, with large scale fields resulting from 20th century boundary loss
- Field boundaries and footpaths often reflect the tracks, droves and hollow ways that took livestock from and to the downs in the Medieval period
- A series of linear spring line villages typically lie at the foot of the valley slopes
- Isolated Neolithic long barrows, Bronze Age round barrows and water meadow channels on the valley floor contribute to visible archaeology

Issues and challenges

- Water flows and water resource management
- 'Horsiculture' and loss of sense of place
- Development pressures (expensive properties, high demand, gentrification, replacement dwellings)
- Highway 'improvements'
- Infrastructure clutter (eg telephone and electricity poles, signs)

Landscape type 6: Greensand Terrace

This Landscape Type comprises the following Landscape Areas:

Character Area 6A Fovant Greensand Terrace

Character Area 6B Kilmington Greensand Terrace

- Flat aprons of land from which the dramatic chalk escarpments and greensand hills rise
- Dominated by arable fields of Parliamentary enclosure
- Large, geometric fields and open skies contrast with the smaller scale, enclosed landscape of the adjacent Greensand Hills
- Upper Greensand geology giving rise to rich brown earth soils that have a high agricultural value
- Land use is predominantly agricultural, including cereal cropping, grass rotations, dairy farming and stock rearing

- Mixed woodland runs in discontinuous belts along the base of the chalk escarpment
- Coniferous belts shelter dispersed, and isolated, farmsteads
- Settlements tend to be at the interface with, or within, the Greensand Hills
- General absence of prehistoric earthworks
- Long views which are also the setting of views from the escarpments and hills

Issues and challenges

- A30 corridor
- Highway paraphernalia, traffic volumes, and loss of tranquillity
- Field sizes, hedge management, and intensification of farming
- Development pressures
- Visual intrusion of farm buildings

Landscape type 7: Greensand Hills

This Landscape Type comprises the following Landscape Areas:

Character Area 7A Donhead - Fovant Hills

Character Area 7B Penselwood - Longleat Hills

- Upper Greensand is exposed as a band between the older clays and younger chalk between Mere and Wilton; elsewhere the hills overlook the Greensand Terraces
- The Greensand typically forms upstanding ridges and hills that have been eroded by tributaries of the major rivers into a series of rounded knolls and deep valleys
- Hills and ridges support a large proportion of woodland, both deciduous and coniferous
- Extensive woodlands 'hide' recreational development, e.g. Center Parc
- Country houses and estates, some very large and spreading across the Greensand Terraces, are set within landscaped parkland, and contribute to the scenic beauty of the area
- Distinctive patterns of settlement include villages hidden in the shelter of the deep valleys
- Fortifications are strategically located on the hilltops
- Ancient and narrow sunken lanes wind their way through the hills
- Small and irregular fields characterise areas of agricultural land use
- Meadows and wet woodland are typical of the valley floors

Issues and challenges

- Heritage conservation especially in parklands with visitor pressures
- Infrastructure clutter (eg telephone & electricity poles, signs)
- Viability of commercial forestry
- Livestock grazing
- Limited access due to narrow lanes
- Traffic and development leading to loss of tranquillity
- Enlarged replacement dwellings

Landscape type 8: Rolling Clay Vales

This Landscape Type comprises the following Landscape Area:

- Character Area 8A The Vale of Wardour
- Predominantly clay vale occupying a series of eroded anticlinal axes between the chalk downlands
- Varied underlying geology with many different geological exposures leading to outcrops of hard rock
- A mixed agricultural landscape with small scale fields of lush improved pasture and arable with water meadows on the valley floor
- Wooded character, with broadleaf and mixed woodland and copses (some of ancient origin) scattered across the Vale, reinforced by bushy hedgerows bounding most fields
- Layout of fields, farms and villages illustrate the pattern of Medieval settlement, clearance and farming
- A predominantly enclosed landscape, with close views limited by hedges, and frequent ups and downs resulting from the varied geology
- Narrow, twisty, lanes
- Rivers and their tributaries meander through the vale
- A further sense of enclosure is provided by the surrounding upland landscapes
- Villages dispersed over the floor of the vale

Issues and challenges

- Viability of family farms and dairying
- Water regimes (Nadder and Sem rivers)
- Transportation and vehicle accessibility
- Infrastructure clutter (eg telephone and electricity poles, signs)

- Greater benefits from the railway, and associated parking needs
- Development pressures, particularly around Tisbury, and potential loss of character

8. Landscape

The topography, geology, and vegetation, and the ways they have evolved with the climate and human usage, come together to form the landscapes we experience around us today. All landscapes have character; however, that character is more substantial, obvious, and extensive in the nationally important Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We use characteristics and qualities to describe and assess those cherished landscapes.

8.1. Special characteristics and qualities that make this AONB special, as a whole, with regards to landscape:

- A peaceful, tranquil, deeply rural area; largely 'unspoilt' and maintained as a living agricultural landscape.
- The scale of the landscape is often grand and dramatic with the 'intensity' of landscape character almost palpable.
- The open downland offers wide expansive skies, dominant skylines, dramatic escarpments and panoramic views.
- Unity of the underlying chalk expressed in the distinctive and sometimes dramatically sculpted landforms, open vistas, escarpments and coombes.
- A rich land use history with many ancient hilltop forts and barrows.
- A bountiful mosaic of habitats playing host to a myriad of wildlife.
- Overlain by a woodland mosaic - including the eye-catching hill-top copses, veteran parkland trees and avenues, extensive areas of wooded downland and ancient forest together with more recent game coverts.
- Three major chalk river valleys with their individual distinctiveness.
- Distinctive settlement pattern along the valleys and vales, and small Medieval villages along the scarp spring line.
- Local vernacular building styles include the patterns of knapped flint, brick, cob, clunch, clay tiles and straw thatch.
- Strong sense of place and local distinctiveness represented by the use of local building materials and small-scale vernacular features such as the sunken lanes and distinctive black and white signposts.
- Strong sense of remoteness.
- Expanse of dark night skies and ability to see the Milky Way.

Ambition

- 8.2. The unique character, tranquillity and special qualities of the landscapes in the AONB are conserved and enhanced for future generations. There will be a widespread understanding of the area's special qualities, and informed decision-making will strengthen these qualities. When change happens, it is to be consistent with the character of the landscape and the setting of the AONB. Everyone will take opportunities to restore landscape features that require it.

Key Achievements

- **Di V]WUjcbg** - The effective use of the AONB Integrated Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Sensitivity Study, and Tranquillity Study by planning policy and development management officers within the nine local planning authorities. The AONB team clearly identifies landscape character in all planning application responses.
- **@bXgWUdYdfcHWjcb** – Avoided potentially negative impacts on the landscape through advice, research and authoritative reports; and input to specific development applications and appeals.
- **@bXgWUdYyb\ UbWa YbhUXj JW** - Detailed discussions with Wessex Water led to a four-year funding package to enhance the farmland landscapes surrounding a strategic pipeline installation and associated pumping and storage facilities.
- **5`@bXgWUdYJ]Yk`cZHfYYg`UbX`K ccX`UbXg** - offers woodland owners, farmers and advisors a fuller understanding of the landscape character context in which they are working.
- **5CB6`HfUbei j`]miGh Xm**- The methodology behind the Tranquillity Study is now valued as good practice. This is now being used by the New Forest National Park and other Protected Areas in the southwest to determine their own levels of tranquillity.
- **I bXYf[fci bX]b[`cZdck Yf``]bYg** - Power lines have been laid underground to enhance the landscape from the viewing area in front of the Fovant Badges (eight military badges cut into the chalk) and around the site of the 13th Century chapel at Fifield Bavant and in the conservation area of Horningsham.
- **7fUbVcfbY7\ UgY`UbX`7\ U_Y`JU`Ymi@bXgWUdY7\ UfUWYf`5ggYgga Ybh** – This study provides a more refined understanding of the landscape character of this Landscape Partnership Scheme area. It will support a 5 year programme of activities to enhance the understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the landscape by all ages, resident or visitors from outside area, through a range of natural, historic and cultural projects across the area. Its ambition is to provide a significant landscape legacy.

Key Issues

1. Understanding and sustaining landscape character - It is crucial that all landscape managers and planners understand, appreciate, and use the Landscape Character Assessments.
2. Monitoring landscape change over time - Long-term, objective monitoring of landscape change takes time and resources. Fixed-point photography locations have been installed to track changes although it will be a while before it helps to determine long-term trends. Such trends may be a result of global issues such as climate change, food prices and/or demand affecting rural land management.
3. Enhancing tranquillity and Dark Night Skies - National data shows the general loss of dark night skies and the risk of light pollution encroaching on the dark skies of the AONB²¹. However, 90% of the AONB falls in the top 2 categories of darkness, as evidenced by CPRE research in 2016. This makes this AONB the last dark area in southern, central England²². (See also Chapter 11 Dark Night Skies)

The Issues Explained

- 8.3. The AONB is a large area with both consistent character, for example the downlands of West Wiltshire, and considerable diversity and contrast. There are the ancient forests and woodland of Cranborne Chase that contrast with the deeply incised chalk coombes close by. In addition, there are the more intimate and secluded chalk river valleys with their distinctive pattern of settlement.
- 8.4. Its special qualities include its diversity, distinctiveness, sense of history and remoteness, dark night skies, tranquillity. It is deeply rural and largely free from development outside settlements. Landscapes are sensitive to many factors to a greater or lesser degree. Some crops create a change that lasts a few months while the planting or felling of woodland can cause change that persists for decades. Built development can introduce changes that are rather more permanent. There are declines in the quality of some characteristic features. Some are brought about by machine trimming of hedgerows; the planting of hedges contrary to landscape character; or planting that cuts out views.
- 8.5. A greater understanding of the character of the landscapes is crucial to helping everyone make informed decisions that contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB.
- 8.6. Meaningful analysis of landscape change over time can use considerable resources, depending on the aim of any such study. A tried and tested methodology using fixed-point photography in Devon produces a series of repeatable images through time. This is in use in this AONB but there is a need

²¹ National Framework Data sheet PLNB9 2013: based on National Tranquillity Mapping Data 2006 developed for the Campaign to Protect Rural England and Natural England by the University of Northumbria. OS Licence number 100018881.

²² CPRE (June 2016) Night Blight: Mapping England's light pollution and dark skies

to take photographs at regular times in consistent light and weather conditions. There are now twelve fixed-point locations with landowner permissions.

- 8.7. Tranquillity is important for our mental and physical well-being. It improves our quality of life. Power lines, masts, cars, roads, light pollution and building developments can erode the tranquillity that means so much to all of us. We want to ensure the dark starry skies of much of the AONB remain that way and continue to be seen and appreciated. However, inappropriate lighting can waste energy and reduce landscape quality²³. This is explained in detail in Chapter 11 – Dark Night Skies.

Objectives and Policies

C6 >97 H=J9		DC @7 -9 G	
<p>OB5</p> <p>The landscape character, tranquillity and special qualities of the AONB are fully understood by policy makers and land managers.</p>	OB%	Provide appropriate training on a range of landscape matters to relevant partners.	
	OB&	Review the 2003 Integrated Landscape Character Assessment to develop guidance for the Landscape Character Types/Areas to inform land use planning and landscape management	
	OB'	Develop guidance for a Landscape Character Type or Area to inform land use planning and landscape management activities.	
<p>OB6</p> <p>The landscape character, tranquillity and special qualities of the AONB and its settings are conserved and enhanced.</p>	OB(Ensure the conservation and enhancement of the landscape character, tranquillity and special qualities of the AONB and its setting, particularly those that are sensitive to change.	
	OB)	Encourage, support and analyse research on landscape issues affecting the AONB and	

²³ e.g. Dorset County Council Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011 to 2026 Policy LTP C-4 - The street lighting network will be managed and improved to increase energy efficiency, to minimise environmental impact and to enhance conservation areas and areas identified for public realm improvements. Alterations to street lighting should not compromise road safety or personal security.

			its surroundings to inform policy formulation and the consequent action required.
		Q B*	Determine the factors that contribute to, or detract from, tranquillity to ensure that policies will more effectively conserve and enhance levels of tranquillity.
		Q B+	Pursue opportunities to underground and remove power and telecommunications lines and poles, and other incongruous features where they detract from the Special Qualities.
Q B7	Understand the rate and degree of landscape change within the AONB.	Q B,	Undertake fixed point photography biennially to identify areas where landscape character, condition, or quality has been or is being lost. This will inform potential restoration and enhancement measures.
<i>(Additional Information: Landscape Appendix 28)</i>			

9. Natural Environment

Our natural resources, such as geology and soils, clean air and water, provide the fundamentals of life itself. These natural capital assets are the basis for the rich diversity and abundance of wildlife that thrives across the AONB. They offer us a high quality, healthy and stimulating environment. What we see around us now is the result of the interactions of natural and human activities over centuries. We need to better understand, promote and value all that the natural environment provides; to conserve and enhance that environment; and address the increasing uncertainties caused by climatic, economic, and social change.

The first chairman of this AONB Partnership was the late Dr Dick Potts, Director of the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust. His enthusiasm for sustaining and enhancing wildlife in active agricultural landscapes has remained a key priority for this AONB

9.1. Special characteristics and qualities that makes this AONB special, as a whole, with regards to the natural environment:

- Main geological features are extensive, wide, and gently rolling chalk ridges with escarpments and dip slopes, clay caps with flint deposits and valleys - both dry and occupied by rivers and streams. The central clay vale has areas of hard rock and a stone quarry. The cultivated flat Greensand Terraces contrast with the undulations of the more wooded Greensand Hills
- Rich ecological character expressed in the diversity of habitats including the distinctive species-rich chalk downland, clear fast flowing chalk streams and rivers, ancient and calcareous woodlands and rare chalk heath and water meadows.
- An abundance of both emblematic wildlife species and those suffering decline such as the Greater horseshoe bat, Adonis blue and Duke of Burgundy butterflies, Tree sparrow and Skylark.
- Clear streams and rivers supporting wild trout, grayling, dace and chub, together with the fast disappearing water vole and aquatic species that rely on high quality water such as the white-clawed crayfish, seriously threatened by the introduction of non-native crayfish.
- Extensive tracts of arable land supporting the six most nationally threatened farmland birds; the Grey partridge, Lapwing, Turtle dove, Yellow wagtail, Tree sparrow and Corn bunting and rare arable plants, such as the Prickly poppy and Pheasants' eye.
- Cranborne Chase is particularly notable for its unusually high proportion of ancient woodland within a chalk landscape. This is largely due to its historic status as a royal hunting area.
- Ancient woods and woodland still under active coppicing management.

Ambition

- 9.2. The natural resources of the AONB will be managed sustainably. The AONB will be a place where wildlife thrives and is able to move freely across the area. The natural environment will be healthy and resilient to the effects of climate change.

Key Achievements

- This AONB was the lead partner in the **Gci R 'K]rg\ JfY: Ufa `UbX'6 JfX' Dfc YWh** (2009-15), which was part of the larger Natural England-led **Gci R 'K Ygh: Ufa `UbX'6 JfX' b]HUhj Y**. Its purpose was to reverse the decline in numbers of the six most threatened farmland bird species; Grey partridge, Lapwing, Corn bunting, Yellow wagtail, Turtle dove and Tree sparrow. It worked with arable farmers to provide key year-round bird habitat to include safe nesting areas, summer insect food and winter seed food.
- Forty four bird species were monitored during the project between 2011 and 2016; 19 that make up the Farmland Bird Index and a selection of other 'Birds of Conservation Concern' plus the Brown hare. This scientific monitoring showed that 42% of species assessed showed a significant positive population response to Farmland Bird Project management compared to population trends on plots with no such management. A further 27% of species showed non-significant responses²⁴.
- There have been other 'spin off' wildlife benefits, particularly for rare arable plants and the Brown hare. The project received national recognition on the BBC's Countryfile programme in 2013; and in 2015 won the Bowland Award, awarded annually for the best project, best practice, or outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty by the National Association of AONBs.
- **: Ufa `7 cbgYfj Uhcb`Dfc YWh**- in conjunction with further funding from Wessex Water via their Corfe Mullen to Salisbury Transfer Scheme (with additional funds from their Biodiversity Partner's Programme in 2015), the Farmland Bird Project to broaden its horizons to become this AONB's Farm Conservation Project. This project brings together groups of neighbouring farmers into 'clusters'. These work very effectively to initiate landscape-scale conservation of soil, water, and biodiversity, and potentially much more. Current and new clusters cover around 38,000 hectares. Our Farm Conservation Adviser also works with farmers submitting applications to Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Scheme. This project was also awarded Wiltshire Life's Conservation Project of the Year in 2017.
- The clusters effectively initiate landscape-scale conservation of soil, water, and biodiversity. This environmental work is at a much larger scale than anything undertaken previously. It has the capacity to meet Sir John Lawton's key aim of achieving "more, bigger, better and joined" wildlife

²⁴

Natural England (2010) Assessing the effectiveness of HLS agreements deploying the Farmland Bird Package 2011–2016

habitats as outlined in the 2010 report 'Making Space for Nature'²⁵, recently re-iterated in the Governments 25 Year Plan for the Environment.'

- **BUi fU'WUd]HU** - Cranborne Chase AONB was a key stakeholder in two major natural capital projects:
 - **6]I '7\ U_** aimed to 'increase the resilience of natural capital stocks within the protected landscapes that share a common chalk geology throughout the South East and South West. Comprehensive mapping and modelling of natural capital at different spatial scales could then support decision making at the strategic level (specifically Local Plans, National Park and AONB area based Management Plans) and be used to target interventions at catchment, farm and field level.
 - **K YggYI '6 9 GG'**(Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Multifunctional Landscapes 2011-17) focused on lowland landscapes in the area around Salisbury Plain and the northern part of this AONB. This six-year programme sought to understand how biodiversity underpins the functions or services that landscapes provide. Through this understanding, policy makers and land managers would be better informed to make decisions.
- **FUFYUFUY'd'Ublg'!**Populations of rare arable plants have declined dramatically over the past 60 years and they are the most critically threatened group of plants in the UK. In 2010, a Wessex Water funded study was undertaken of rare arable plant distribution in the AONB, prepared jointly between the AONB, Black Sheep Countryside Management and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust. It pinpointed rare arable flora 'hotspots' together with indications of where good arable flora communities were likely to be present. The report consequently determined 39% of the AONB as an Arable Flora Target Area where focused management for arable plants, would be likely to be most effective.
- **'Stepping Stones' (2012!&\$%) L**– This partnership project aimed to improve existing, and create new, species rich chalk grassland habitat resulting in improved habitat connectivity, enabling species to move more freely to new areas. This joint initiative between Cranborne Chase and North Wessex Downs AONBs, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, many farmers, Black Sheep Countryside Management and a host of volunteers, created an additional 344ha of linked, species rich chalk grassland. Volunteers alone undertook 230 hours work planting out around 23,000 plug plants.
- **7 fUbVcfbY'7\ UgY'5 bWYbhK ccX'UbX'Df]cf]hmi5 fYU**– one of four areas in the South West. The Forestry Commission undertook a mapping and targeting exercise in the south west to identify robust habitat networks centred around clusters of ancient and native woodlands, where landscape connectivity and permeability offered the best opportunity to link and extend ancient woodlands. By working on a landscape scale the resilience of these

25

Professor Sir John Lawton et al (2010), Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network, Submitted to the Secretary of State, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 16 September 2010

habitats to climate change and other threats can be enhanced. In 2009, an Ancient Woodland Priority Area was established in Cranborne Chase.

- **Gi gHJbUVY8 Yj Ycda Ybh: i bX** grant support to projects / training of volunteers:
 - Around 50 volunteers have been trained to provide the Environment Agency with early warning of water pollution at 24 sites on the Rivers Wylye, Nadder, Ebble, Stour and Allen with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust;
 - assess the current distribution and abundance of the White Clawed Crayfish over the length of the River Allen through Dorset Wildlife Trust
 - reconnect and enhance the habitats for rare and threatened wildlife along the River Allen;
 - identify signs of Chalara dieback of Ash caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*; raise awareness of Chalara dieback of Ash particularly to land owners; and celebrate the ash trees' many uses, history, ecology, biology, cultural significance and folklore.
- **5 bWYbHfYYg'Dfc YWh**– This project, with funding from Hampshire County Council, trained volunteers to identify and record ancient, veteran and 'notable' trees with over 150 trees recorded in five Hampshire parishes. Inspired by this work, volunteers came together to form another tree recording group in the Donheads, Wiltshire, during 2016-17 and undertook similar recordings.

Key issues

1. **: fU[a YbhYX'UbX'jgc`UHYX\ UV]HJg`**–This AONB has some of the best, last remaining chalk grasslands in Europe. While supporting a vast diversity of plant, animal and invertebrate species, its fragmented nature often denies those species the opportunity to flourish through expanding their range or populations. The fragmentation of priority habitats also extends to ancient woodland, other deciduous woodland, semi-improved grassland and lowland meadows.'
2. **K]X'jZ'gdYWjYg'XYW]bY'**- 'Many species of birds, butterflies, plants and mammals that were once common across the AONB, are in decline²⁶.
3. **JUi]b['R YVYbYz]hg'k YfYWW]j YZca 'R Y'bUi fU`Ybj]fcb a Ybh!**'There is a need to demonstrate that the natural environment provides benefits of measurable value to society and everyone understands those values.
4. **@bX'a UbU[Ya YbhdfUW]Wg`**– Intensive, or changing, land management practices can lead to a decline in wildlife and reduced soil and water quality.

²⁶

Hayhow D.B., et al (2016) State of Nature 2016, The State of Nature partnership.

5. **I b]bhYbXYX'WtbgYei YbWg'** – generalised conservation measures, such as hedge planting, applied without attention to the local situation can compromise priority habitats and provide cover for predators.
6. **@a JhYX'a YUbg'hc'WtbgYfj Y'UbX'Yb\ UbW'** natural environment, habitats and species. Through close working relationships with farmers and landowners over the years, the will to conserve certainly exists; the combination of time, knowledge or experience to undertake necessary work may not necessarily be present.
7. **5`Yb'gdYWYgzdYghg'UbX'dUH c[Ybg'** – These pose risks to native wildlife and increase uncertainty for all land managers.
8. **7`ja UHY'W Ub[Y'** – Ongoing climate change may pose a threat to the characteristic landscapes and natural beauty of the area as habitats evolve.
9. **5[f]!Ybj jfcba YbhgW Ya Yg'** – The management of many of the AONB's most valuable habitats has been primarily through agri-environment schemes with the aid of Government and EU funding. Options within those schemes have not always been adequately attuned to the needs of the landscape and habitats that they were designed to conserve. Funding has reduced over the years and the future of these schemes is now uncertain.
10. **6 fYI jh'** – The decision to leave the EU will have major ramifications for agricultural trade in the UK, which could affect the ways much of the AONB's farmland is managed and hence the wildlife that depends on it.

The Issues Explained

- 9.3. The chalk grasslands and rivers of the AONB, with their rare wildlife, are of international importance. A significant proportion of the woodland is of ancient origin and the area contains some of the best stands of ancient trees in Europe²⁷. The extensive tracts of arable land support islands of rare arable plants and can be a stronghold for farmland birds. However, the areas of habitat favouring these important species are often fragmented and isolated. Wildlife habitats need to be big enough and sufficiently well connected for wildlife to thrive. Species need corridors to move through the landscape in response to a changing environment.
- 9.4. During the last few decades, management regimes that were focused on creating higher crop yields have led to habitat change and the loss of wildlife. 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.
- 9.5. Though the current rate of decline is not as steep as during the 1970s and 1980s, a short-term decline of 9% since 2010 shows that farmland birds, and especially farmland specialists, are still in trouble.²⁸ For example, Turtle Dove

²⁷ <http://www.ancient-treehunt.org.uk/ancienttrees/findingthem>

²⁸ <https://www.bto.org/science/monitoring/developing-bird-indicators>

numbers have declining by 93% since 1994 and may well be at risk of global extinction. However the results from the Farmland Bird Project referenced above in Key Achievements show that with targeted management of sufficient habitats, reversing the decline is possible.

- 9.6. Even once common species are also suffering unprecedented and drastic declines. Hedgehog numbers have plummeted by over 50% since 1994, voles by 30% over the last ten years and dormice are vulnerable to extinction in the UK (see Appendix 29).
- 9.7. Populations of rare arable plants have declined dramatically over the past 60 years. They are the most critically threatened group of wild plants in the UK. The report, 'Assessing the Distribution of Rare Arable Plants in the Cranborne Chase AONB (2010)', identifies the important arable plant hotspots and will help refine targeting, surveying and promotion of semi-natural habitat restoration, creation and management.
- 9.8. The four County Biological Records Centres hold incomplete records for species presence and/or distribution in the AONB. Farmer clusters have been frustrated to date by their lack of knowledge of species present on their holdings. There is a need to actively encourage the training and involvement of volunteers in identifying, recording and mapping of fauna and flora to greatly improve the knowledge base across the AONB. (More in Chapter 17)
- 9.9. The Lawton review of ecological sites and networks '*Making Space for Nature*'²⁹ advocates for the creation of more effective ecological networks through the establishment of more, bigger and better quality wildlife sites that are better connected. This vision is a key aspiration in this Plan. The majority of the land needed to achieve this is currently under some form of agricultural, forestry or game management. It is, therefore, vital that habitat creation, enhancement and improved connectivity become a part of viable land management systems.
- 9.10. The Government has stated in its policy paper '*A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment*'³⁰ that it will publish a Strategy for Nature and develop a Nature Recovery Network that aims to provide an additional 500,000 hectares of wildlife habitat. The Government has announced a forthcoming Environment Bill that will provide the legal framework reinforcing its pledge to leave the environment in a better state over the next 25 years. An Agriculture Bill is also due before the end of 2018 that 'will map the future of UK farming outside the EU'. At the time of writing this Management Plan Review, there were no further details.
- 9.11. The natural capital of the AONB, the elements of the natural environment which provide valuable goods and services to people such as clean air, clean water, healthy soils, food and recreation, is both very high in quality and quantity.

²⁹ Professor Sir John Lawton et al (2010), *Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network*, Submitted to the Secretary of State, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 16 September 2010

³⁰ *A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment* Defra 1st February 2018

- 9.12. The Natural Capital Committee is an independent committee that advises the Government on the sustainable use of our natural assets. This committee reported that the elements of the natural environment that provide valuable goods and services to people are in long-term decline.
- 9.13. This decline will continue into the future, and is likely to accelerate, unless there is some radical departure from the approaches of the past.³¹ This could include biodiversity net gain as a key planning principle or a landscape-scale / catchment-based approach to conservation³². It may also include widespread payments for the services the landscape provides (also known as ecosystem services) or the routine application of natural capital accounting.
- 9.14. Relatively straightforward agri-environment options such as tree planting can sometimes take place in inappropriate locations that can lead to a change in landscape character, the reduction or destruction of remnant grassland habitat and a reduction in the suitability of the area for ground nesting birds.
- 9.15. Evidence from the farmer cluster work, has highlighted the strong desire of landowners and farmers to help conserve and enhance the natural environment. However, effective and timely conservation work might well compete with priority work on the farm. Additional knowledge and experience of conservation techniques needs to be delivered through training opportunities open to farmers and volunteers and through practical input from conservation professionals, such as rangers, with the assistance of volunteers.
- 9.16. During consultations in 2010 towards a funding bid, the AONB gained strong anecdotal evidence that that the area is seen as a 'black hole' for volunteering, with communities, including many youngsters, welcoming any opportunity for countryside skills training and a chance to put that to use. Chapter 16 describes this in more detail but, in line with the aims of the Governments 25 Year Environment Plan, there is proven, latent demand from communities to become involved in the conservation and enhancement of the AONBs natural environment. Engagement with countryside management professionals could only assist in nurturing that demand.
- 9.17. There is an increase in the number of alien species, pests and pathogens entering the natural environment, with new ones being recorded almost monthly³³. In May 2018, the Forestry Commission noted at least 30 new pests and diseases affecting livestock, and 15 affecting trees in the UK. These can have a devastating effect on the natural environment and livelihoods. The particular dangers to woodland from pests and diseases is growing, with Dieback of Ash (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) and Oak Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*) two of the most recent examples. Dieback of ash may have a very serious effect on the ash trees in this AONB; whilst opinions vary, there is broad consensus that there is a reasonable chance that

³¹ Natural Capital Committee, The State of Natural Capital, third report 2015

³² The AONB Partnership values and advocates the full use of paragraphs 174/175 of the NPPF that set out the principles to protect and enhance biodiversity and when determining planning application, including net biodiversity gain.

³³ In May 2018, the Forestry Commission noted 30 new pests and diseases affecting livestock, and 15 affecting trees in the UK. See <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/geography/our-research/ecss/webber11.pdf>

we will lose a significant portion of ash trees, a substantive loss to our landscapes and heritage. The damage caused by deer and Grey squirrels is also of increasing concern.

- 9.18. Climate change continues to influence the natural world. The evidence of recent years is that the AONB's climate is likely to become warmer and wetter in winter, and hotter and drier in summer. There will be more extreme weather events resulting in droughts and floods. Uncertainty and severity in the weather system poses very real threats to our way of life and our environment.
- 9.19. Although it is possible to reduce the effects of climate change with positive action, significant changes will still occur. This is because past emissions have already raised carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. The area needs help to adapt to the impacts of climate change in a way that helps to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB. Further climate change information and the range of mitigation and adaptation measures are shown in *Appendix X*³⁴.
- 9.20. Farming requires a profitable future to stay in business, sustain farming families, safeguard the environment and mitigate climate change. For centuries, land managers and farmers have shaped the landscape and environment, including its wildlife, soil and water quality, as they went about their work.
- 9.21. There is a need to develop more effective environmentally-friendly farming practices if wildlife is to thrive in the AONB. As Brexit approaches in 2019, Government has pledged to continue to support agriculture, albeit through revised and/or 'new environmental land management schemes' (NELMS). The Basic Farm Payment (BFP) received by the majority of farmers will be phased out over a number of years. It will be replaced by a new scheme that offers 'public money for public goods'; that is, undertaking work on the farm to specifically benefit the environment, and hence the general public.
- 9.22. Grazing is a key component of managing the landscapes of the AONB, particularly its nationally important species-rich chalk grassland and habitats associated with water meadows. In the absence of a UK-EU trade deal after Brexit, farm exports will face World Trade Organisation tariffs. This will have a significant impact upon agriculture. Livestock farming could be one of the worse affected sectors, as tariffs could increase consumer prices by as much as 50%.³⁵ Consequently, the viability of grazing our grasslands and meadows may reduce. However, livestock numbers may not decrease as grazing regimes develop as a part of an arable rotation.
- 9.23. DEFRA has recently extended pilot schemes in Norfolk, Suffolk and Yorkshire and indicated that it needs further innovative tests and trials of new agri-environment methods / techniques to help achieve the aims of the 25 year Environment Plan and respond to the Health and Harmony consultation paper: 'The Future for Food, Farming and the Environment in a Green Brexit'.

³⁴ Responding to the impacts of climate change on the natural environment: Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase (NE116), Natural England, March 2009

³⁵ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/52003?category=10003>
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmenvfru/348/348.pdf>

9.24. DEFRA has stated³⁶ that in advance of withdrawing the BFP, trials will test potential options and techniques that will help protect, conserve and enhance the environment and biodiversity. Test and trials will look to:

- Restore healthy soils
- Improve air quality
- Provide clean water, and
- Enable the countryside to teem with wildlife

9.25. The AONB is in a strong position to play a positive role in developing these new environmental land management schemes based on landscape character, and at a landscape scale. It has considerable and proven experience working with, and facilitating, self-help farm clusters to enhance farmland wildlife, habitats and landscapes. The AONB is very keen to collaborate with landowners and farmers to help offer a clear collective voice to shape future policies and support schemes. The AONB could be a test-bed for revised support schemes and new ways of working, delivering public goods for public money, whilst producing quality local foods for the nation.

Objectives and Policies

C6 >97 HJ9'		DC @7 9G'	
B9' 5'	Sustainable ecological networks are established and maintained across the AONB	B9%	Build and sustain a robust environmental records base for the AONB and its surrounds
		B9&'	Develop biodiversity permeability/connectivity mapping across the AONB to identify restoration and enhancement priorities that integrate with landscape character.
		B9' '	Work with landowners, farmers, woodland managers and appropriate partners, to establish and enhance coherent and effective ecological networks at a landscape-scale through the development of

³⁶ See Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit, Cmd paper 9577, HMSO, February 2018

			further farm / woodland clusters or through new environmental land management scheme opportunities.
		B9(Develop and seek resources to manage a long term programme of volunteer training and involvement in all aspects of environmental/countryside management
		B9)	Develop, and seek resources for, a programme of landscape scale biodiversity enhancement projects, to increase priority habitat within the AONB by 1,000ha over this plan period.
B9`6`	The benefits and services provided by the natural environment are understood and accurately valued by decision-makers at all levels.	B9*`	Develop a natural capital accounting system for the AONB with partners that will increase understanding and provide accurate and appropriate data for better decision-making within this AONB.
B9`7`	Everyone, particularly business and community leaders, have a better understanding of the potential effects of climate change in the AONB and the actions they can take.	B9+`	Work with relevant organisations, such as Councils and the NFU, on climate change adaptation/mitigation measures and promote good practice examples that are appropriate for the AONB landscape and communities.
B9`8`	Pests, pathogens, and invasive non-native species causing harm in the AONB are being effectively addressed	B9,`	Support partners and landowners to manage existing pests and pathogens, and increase understanding of the

			dangers from non-native species, pests and pathogens.
<i>(Additional Information: Natural Environment Appendix 29)</i>			

10. Historic and Cultural Environment

The way the land has been used over the centuries has influenced the character of the landscapes we see around us today. The remnants and artefacts of working life, together with the layout of settlements, routeways, and buildings, contribute to the historic character of an area. This includes buried archaeology, buildings, designed landscapes and cultural features. Many acclaimed writers, artists, poets and photographers are associated with this AONB.

10.1. Special characteristics and qualities that make this AONB special, as a whole, with regards to the historic and cultural environment:

- A landscape etched with the imprint of the past - visible archaeological features including prehistoric earthworks, settlements, field systems, water meadows and former settlements.
- The former Medieval hunting areas of Selwood Forest, Grovely Forest, and the Cranborne Chase.
- A rich legacy of landscape scale prehistoric archaeological features such as the Neolithic Dorset Cursus, as well as later historic features including the Saxon Bokerley Dyke.
- Historic borderlands, with important Saxon and even Roman roots, once marginal land and often subject to late enclosure.
- A rich land use history, with areas that have a concentration of ancient enclosure, ancient woodland, and former common land.
- An historic settlement pattern (pre 1750), which has seen minimal infilling, associated with a dense concentration of historic listed buildings.
- A concentration of historic parklands, estates, and manor houses together with Historic Parks and Gardens of national and county importance.
- Literary, artistic and historic connections of national and international distinction.

Ambition

10.2. The historic and cultural environment of the AONB is conserved and enhanced. Everyone understands, values and enjoys its cultural and heritage assets. The story of the area's evolution over time is clear to all.

Key Achievements

- **Di V]WUjcbg'** Historic England promotes our AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation 2008, and the subsequent Historic Environment Action Plans (HEAPs) 2012, as exemplar documents. These provide an

evolving targeted framework for ongoing historic environment action and a dedicated web site³⁷.

- **Jc`i bhYf`Yb[U] Ya Ybh**– over thirty people have been trained to identify and record historic farmsteads.
- **: ci bXU]cbg`cZ5 fW UYc`c[m-** This two year HLF funded project explored the legacy of the pioneers of archaeology who lived and worked in the AONB locality, training up over 200 volunteers, familiarising them with some of the basic skills of archaeological field survey. The project targeted sites known to have been excavated by antiquarians in three Focus Areas and work included condition surveys, management work and increased awareness of the historic wealth of the AONB. It also trained volunteers to contribute to the Historic Environment Record in Dorset and Wiltshire into the future.
- **K Y`UHfYbXYX`WcbZfYbWg`!** Conferences covering different aspects of the historic and archaeological treasures of the AONB, as well as the Foundation of Archaeology project, offered opportunities to hear well renowned speakers. Attendance was high.
- **bdh hfc`d`Ubb]b[`!** Consultation responses have influenced the drafting of national and local planning policy. Advice given to planning authorities on proposals affecting heritage assets has been effective.

Key issues`

1. **?bck`YX[YUbX`gi VgYei YbhUddfYWU]cb`cZH Y\]ghcf]WYbj]fcb`a Ybh fYa U]bg`ck** - The AONB has a vast and precious historic heritage. Greater knowledge and promotion of this heritage legacy will underpin practical action to conserve and enhance it.
2. **bdUddfcd]UH`a UbU] Ya Ybh`cZH Y\]ghcf]WYbj]fcb`a Ybh-** Ploughing, planting or unsuitable grazing can seriously damage historic sites and features.
3. **< Yf]HU] Y`Uf]g_** - The AONB has heritage assets that Historic England considers to be vulnerable or ‘at Risk’. There is a need for partners to take practical action to conserve and enhance these assets. There is a sparse record of historic farmsteads, especially those not recognised by the Listed Building processes.
4. **: i bX]b[`Zf`h Y\]ghcf]WYbj]fcb`a Ybh-** Pressure on specific funds to safeguard and enhance the historic environment is acute. Much of the funding for this area of work is discretionary.
5. **@a]HYX`Uk UfYbYgg`cZW`bf]Vi]cb`cZUf]h`]HfUf fY`UbX`Zc`_`cfY`tc`cWU`]XYbh]mi!** Heywood Sumner, Thomas Hardy, Desmond Hawkins, Cecil

³⁷ <http://www.historiclandscape.co.uk/>

Beaton, Lucien Freud and Elisabeth Frink all took inspiration from Cranborne Chase and its hinterland. There is a profusion of authors, broadcasters, musicians, sculptors, photographers and artists closely connected to the AONB, both in the past and today. For many, their work is either little known or not widely enough appreciated by resident and visitor communities.

The Issues Explained

- 10.3. Awareness of sources of information on historic resources is limited. There is a need to promote better awareness of HEAPS as a key source (while acknowledging that these often record some types of heritage better than others, so other sources should also be used). The 'Buildings at Risk' register of Historic England is not widely known nor its local relevance appreciated. There is not a record of all the historic sites. Those without records are almost certainly being damaged or lost. There is a need for greater knowledge of the location and importance of the heritage assets of the AONB. The ongoing promotion of the Historic Landscape Characterisation and HEAPS can help deal with this.
- 10.4. The Historic Environment Records (HERs) in Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire are an essential source of information for managing, caring for and understanding the historic environment. They select and present information on all known heritage assets. These include landscapes, buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas and archaeological finds. There is also information on previous archaeological and heritage work in each county.
- 10.5. No such record is ever complete. The AONB Historic Environment Action Plan identifies ways in which the AONB can work with the HERs to enhance knowledge and understanding, for example for the Medieval and Post Medieval period and in woodland. It also identifies areas where the significance of particular heritage is not well known.
- 10.6. The quality of information about and interpretation of the historic environment of the AONB can be improved. There is a wealth of historic riches throughout the area; a visible legacy of human involvement with the landscape through time. In addition, there is poor knowledge and low appreciation of artists, writers and other cultural connections, both past and present. The aim of the HLF funded Cranborne Chase and the Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme is to support wide-ranging, innovative and inspiring interpretation. This will invite involvement, enjoyment and learning from the widest range of audiences throughout 2019-24, and on into the future. It will also provide a range of opportunities for these people to get involved in practical tasks; and to celebrate the historic and cultural heritage of the area.
- 10.7. Nevertheless, the AONB needs to access more resources to develop educational and interpretative media across the whole AONB to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of this AONB's historic and cultural environment.

- 10.8. The landscapes of the AONB are an expression of the interaction between people and the land over thousands of years. Every part of these landscapes has a history that contributes to the special qualities of the AONB. The landscapes of the AONB bear the mark of successive periods of human activity. This is one of the richest and most closely studied parts of prehistoric Wessex. It is the haunt of General Pitt-Rivers, Heywood Sumner, Richard Bradley and Martin Green. However, there is still much to be discovered.
- 10.9. Important literary figures associated with the area include poet and barrister Sir John Davies, naturalist and writer W H Hudson, and author and broadcaster Desmond Hawkins, amongst many. Thomas Hardy based some scenes of *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* in Cranborne Chase AONB. Other artistic and cultural connections include the architect Sir Christopher Wren and renowned photographer, designer, socialite, writer, Sir Cecil Beaton.
- 10.10. 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 were celebrated as part of an exhibition at Salisbury Museum. The Museum states that artists 'have found in Cranborne Chase and its hinterland a landscape of inspiration, seclusion and 'bare-boned' beauty'; and that the AONB 'has always had an air of isolation which has attracted an exceptional array of artists and writers'. (*Appendix 30*)

Nationally designated heritage in the AONB

- 10.11. Designation is a way of marking that a building, monument or landscape is of 'special architectural or historic interest' in a national context. Historic England makes the recommendation for designation (*Appendix 17*). It is a stage that identifies a site as being architecturally or historically important before any planning stage that may decide its future. In the AONB there are:
- 550 Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
 - 2038 Listed Buildings, 78 of which are Grade I and 106 Grade II*.
 - 17 Registered Parks and Gardens.
- 10.12. When Historic England says that a Listed Grade I or II* Building is 'at risk', they mean it is vulnerable through neglect or decay rather than alteration or demolition. This leads to the 'At Risk' Register. Historic England prepares and publishes an annual Register of Heritage at Risk of those nationally designated heritage assets that are at risk of being lost through neglect, decay or inappropriate development. In 2018 in the AONB there were:
- 5 Buildings at Risk
 - 81 Monuments at Risk
 - 0 Parks and Gardens at Risk
- 10.13. Some local authorities produce their own registers that record all buildings and structures 'at risk', irrespective of grade. As Historic England (formerly English Heritage) English Heritage only lists Grades I, II* and II in the Register of

Heritage at Risk, the total number of buildings or structures 'at risk' is much greater than the register might at first suggest.

Local heritage designations and records

- 63 designated Conservation Areas
- 16 Historic Parks and Gardens of county importance
- Historic designed landscapes of local importance
- The four county archaeological services record and protect the archaeology within the AONB, and each maintain an Historic Environment Record/Sites and Monuments Record

10.14. The Historic Environment Action Plans (HEAPS)³⁸ identify the key issues affecting the heritage assets of the AONB. They summarise the key characteristics of the historic environment of the AONB at a landscape scale. They set out the significance, condition and pressures affecting the heritage assets, including those 'at risk'. They identify the actions needed to conserve and enhance these special characteristics. These provide the central actions to enable the AONB to effectively conserve and enhance its historic environment assets.

10.15. Ploughing the land can destroy buried and extant archaeological features. Lack of grazing leads to the development of scrub. Historic sites are harder to recognise when overgrown and are prone to severe damage if trees or shrubs establish themselves. Overgrazing can cause erosion and destroy sites. Burrowing animals, such as badgers and rabbits, can damage underground remains. Planting and harvesting trees and energy crops may also cause damage to sites. Badly designed buildings and structures may spoil the setting of many sites and monuments. The historic cohesion of the landscape may be lost.

Funding

10.16. Historic England commissioned a research report in 2011³⁹ to review the issues facing local authorities as they manage their heritage assets at a time of acute financial stress. The funding available through both Historic England and Local Authorities has greatly diminished over recent years. The research found a wide variation in the ways that local authorities manage their heritage properties. It describes the issues that are affecting them, including the economic downturn, declining budgets, changing patterns of use and fewer conservation officers.

10.17. Some external funding programmes target the historic environment. The Heritage Lottery fund is, however, currently (2018) reviewing its funding programmes. There is now intensive competition to all funding programmes

³⁸ http://www.historiclandscape.co.uk/conserving_heap.html

³⁹ English Heritage: Local authority heritage assets: Current issues and opportunities by Green Balance with Grover Lewis Associates Ltd March 2012.

which may lead to insufficient funding to fully protect and conserve the historic wealth of the AONB.

Objectives and Policies

C6>97 H=J9		DC @7 9 G	
<9 5	The historic environment, cultural heritage and traditions of the AONB are understood, valued and celebrated	<9%	Promote the historic landscapes of the AONB, the Historic Landscape Characterisation, HEAP documents together with past and present cultural associations, as educational resources to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of the AONB's historic and cultural environment.
		<9 &	Utilise resources available through the 5 year LPS to undertake volunteering activities, public events and provide creative educational and interpretative media based on the historic heritage of the AONB area.
<9 6	The historic environment and cultural heritage of the AONB is conserved and enhanced	<9 ' "	Promote the Historic Landscape Characterisation and related Historic Landscape Character Areas and Themes descriptions as a tool for managing the historic and cultural environment of the AONB, providing a framework for policy-making, planning decisions, research agendas and positive action.
		<9 ("	Encourage appropriate and improved identification, recording and management of the distinctive historic landscapes of the AONB through working with appropriate partners including the County HERs, farmers and partners within the Landscape Partnership Scheme to undertake action identified in the AONB Historic Environment Action Plans.
		<9) "	Facilitate future 'agri-environment' schemes that effectively enhance the management of historic sites and features.

·		<9*	Work with relevant partners to protect, conserve and enhance heritage assets 'at risk' within the AONB
·		<9+	The AONB will normally only support 'enabling development' that seeks to secure the conservation or restoration of an historic feature if it is not at the expense of another historic feature or the setting of that historic feature or another ⁴⁰ .
·		<9,	Encourage the appropriate reuse of redundant historic farm buildings in harmony with landscape character and local distinctiveness
		<9-	In relation to additions/alterations to the built heritage or nearby structures, support Local Planning Authority Conservation Officers in seeking the highest standards of design and materials.
<i>(Additional Information: Historic and Cultural Environment Appendix 30)⁴¹</i>			

⁴⁰ Green Balance with Grover Lewis Associates Ltd March 2012: Local authority heritage assets: Current issues and opportunities for English Heritage; also Historic England (2016): Managing Heritage Assets - A Guide for Local Government

⁴¹ Also, refer to English Heritage 2008-Enabling Development and the Conservation of Significant Places.

11. Dark Night Skies

Cranborne Chase AONB has the darkest night skies in central southern England. The awe-inspiring Milky Way can be readily viewed here; something that over 90% of the UK population can rarely see due to light pollution. Unlike ancient historic settlements, rivers, soils, wildlife, and our outstanding landscapes, the night sky has no legal protection, which explains why in just six years light pollution has increased by 24% across the UK as a whole.

11.1. Special characteristics and qualities that makes this AONB special, as a whole, with regards to dark night skies:

- Cranborne Chase AONB is one of the darkest places in England⁴²
- Dark night skies with a myriad of visible stars have always been an outstanding, memorable and remarkable feature of this AONB
- A topography that facilitates stargazing with open, elevated downland, wide panoramic, unobstructed views all with relatively easy public access
- Lack of major towns and a low AONB population limits the incidence of light pollution and sky glow

Ambition

11.2. The Partnership aims to achieve International Dark Sky Reserve⁴³ status during 2019, continuing to reduce light pollution into the future to enhance further the night-time environment for the benefit of human health and wildlife. It will also reduce expenditure and carbon emissions from unnecessary lighting, and offering new opportunities for education and rural tourism.

Key achievements

- A Dark Sky Reserve⁴³ endorsed by AONB Partnership in 2008
- An objective to seek International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR) status was adopted by Partnership local authorities in the 2014-19 AONB Management Plan

⁴² The most detailed ever satellite maps of England's light pollution and dark skies, were released by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) in 2016. They showed that 52% of Cranborne Chase AONB is in Band 1, which is the darkest category and 40% of the AONB is in the next category. See CPRE (June 2016) Night Blight: Mapping England's light pollution and dark skies.

⁴³ An IDA International Dark Sky Reserve protects an area possessing exceptional starry nights and nocturnal environment for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural, heritage and/or public enjoyment. Reserves consist of a core area meeting minimum criteria for sky quality and natural darkness, and a peripheral area that supports dark sky preservation in the core. Formation of reserves is through partnerships that recognize the value of the natural night time environment through regulations and long-term planning – after International Dark Sky association, see <http://darksky.org/idsp/reserves/>

- The prevention and avoidance of light pollution has been consistently inputted to national and local planning policy consultations and detailed development management advice since 2008
- The first specialist, dark night skies and good lighting **5 CB6 'D'Ubb]b[' GYa]bUf'** was held in 2014, another in 2018 whilst an AONB Annual Forum was held in association with the coordinator for the BAA's Commission for Dark Skies (CfDS).
- **; ccX' @[\ h]b[' ; i]XYg** were provided by the AONB and CfDS in 2016, plus a Developers' Guide to Good Lighting in 2018
- Partnerships have been established with the British Astronomical Association (BAA) and Wessex Astronomical Society to record sky darkness, facilitate events, and promote good lighting practice. The Head of the British Astronomical Association's Commission for Dark Skies is giving wide ranging expert advice and support.
- **%\$'di V']WgHUF[Uh]b['g]hYg** have been negotiated with landowners and promoted through this 'Chasing Stars' initiative.
- **G_mE i U]]miA YhYf** (SQM) readings have been taken throughout the AONB since 2015 and on a more systematic square kilometre grid basis during 2017 to map the darkest areas of the AONB.
- Numerous public stargazing evenings have been held together with 'Space Detectives' workshops delivered to schools.
- Some LPAs now regularly place conditions on planning approvals that ensure new lighting complies with this AONB's guidance, which echoes CfDS and International Dark-sky Association (IDA) best practice.
- A **XYX]WUHX'8 Uf_ 'G_m5 Xj]gcf** post from August 2018 will focus on the task of attaining Reserve status.

Key issues

1. Exposure to artificial light at night presents significant risks to human health. Humans evolved with the rhythms of the natural light-dark cycle of day and night. Natural light helps set our clocks to Earth's 24-hour day-night cycle. Exposure to artificial light at night disrupts this process, increasing our risks for cancers and other potentially deadly diseases. Glare from poorly shielded outdoor lighting limits our ability to see. Aging eyes are especially affected⁴⁴.
2. Outdoor lighting impacts wildlife, especially in or near sensitive habitats. Bad lighting policies can have lethal consequences for wildlife but good policies can maintain healthy ecosystems. Nocturnal habitats do not receive the same attention as daytime habitats.
3. Producing artificial light consumes energy. Promoting dark skies can reduce energy consumption and promote efficient outdoor lighting technologies.

⁴⁴ American Medical Association, see also R Chepesiuk (2009) Missing the Dark: Health Effects of Light Pollution in Environmental Health Perspectives V.117(1) A20-A27

There is a need to influence the types and levels of outdoor lighting installed in the AONB.

4. Poorly designed and/or installed outdoor lighting is a hazard to motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians in transit at night. The same policies that keep night-time skies dark reduce glare and put **h Yf][\ hUa ci bhicZ`][\ h]b'h Y` f][\ hd'UW'UbX'Uh h Yf][\ h]a Y** to ensure the safety of all.
5. Over-lighting outdoor spaces at night can create favourable conditions for crimes of opportunity. Bright flood lighting creates shadows that can mask a crime. Policies that protect dark skies enhance security by reducing glare and preserving night-sight.
6. Dazzle, glare and light spilling in all directions reduces the visibility of the stars and hence the opportunities to perceive a special part of the universe.
7. Awareness and understanding of the implications of seeking IDSR status needs to be raised. People living and working in the AONB need to be a part of this initiative. Although large parts of the area remain free from light pollution, the gradual encroachment of street, house and security lights means that starlight, which may have travelled for hundreds or even millions of years to reach our eyes, is stolen at the last moment - by sky-glow. The ongoing information and engagement programme aims to reach a consensus for limits and controls on outside lighting.
8. An absence of detailed lighting policies within current Local/Development Plans can be a barrier for LPAs implementing good lighting practice when determining planning applications. However, some lighting issues (Permitted Development / installation of blinds) fall outside planning control.
9. Planning consultants and developers need to adopt good lighting practices as standard.
10. The significant potential to attract and increase additional astro-tourism visitors to this AONB, particularly in the 'shoulder' and winter months, is not fully appreciated

The Issues Explained

- 11.3. Whilst awareness and understanding of the multiple benefits of IDSR status is increasing, the potential improvements to human health, an enhanced environment for nocturnal wildlife, financial savings, carbon emission reductions and a much enhanced tourism offer requires ongoing promotion.
- 11.4. The advent of LEDs, which offer welcome and considerable cost and energy savings to domestic and business users, emit a harsh, bright white light that can often dazzle onlookers, and if fixtures are incorrectly fitted, emit this unnecessary light upwards and sideways
- 11.5. Some of the LPAs are including conditions regarding lighting issues in line with the AONBs policies on lighting and others have yet to put this in motion. The

Local/Development Plans for the seven Local Authorities cover different time periods. This means some may be willing to consider adding specific lighting policies relatively quickly whilst others suggest they are not in a position to do so for some time.

- 11.6. The highway authorities in Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire each operate light dimming schemes. Dorset has a highway policy of no lights in rural areas except in special situations (for example, at major traffic junctions) and a policy that restricts upwards and sideways emission of light.
- 11.7. Many planning consultants and developers are unaware of the light pollution caused through ill-designed lighting schemes. The Institution of Lighting Professionals has developed guidance dedicated solely to excellence in lighting that requires promotion that is more comprehensive.
- 11.8. Plans for new developments frequently comprise floor to ceiling glass ‘walls’, and roof lights are not automatically fitted with blinds or louvres; understanding of the need for these to prevent night-time emission of light needs to be increased.
- 11.9. IDA requires <500 lumens (equating roughly to a 60W bulb), or fully shielded fittings preferably incorporating an infra-red motion sensor to limit sideways and upwards light spill in a Dark Sky Reserve. Much of the outside, security lighting utilised on both domestic and business premises is not currently IDA compliant, with many unshielded fittings and lamps/bulbs emitting higher than the required 500 lumens.
- 11.10. Another factor contributing to unwanted light spill can be the inappropriate installation of light fixtures. They should be angled downwards to only light the area to be illuminated. This requires fixtures to only shine light below the horizontal. The AONB is developing a ‘Big Dipper’ type campaign to turn downwards existing light units and to encourage correct installation of light fixtures.

Objectives and Policies

C6 > 97 H J 9		DC @ 7 9 G	
8 BG 5	International Dark-Sky Reserve (IDSR) status is secured for the AONB during 2019	8 BG %	Actively promote the benefits of IDSR status to all partners and communities to elicit appropriate action and support for the application to IDA.
8 BG 6	The IDSR status is retained through evidencing annual reductions in light pollution across the AONB	8 BG &	Work with all LPA partners to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain IDSR status through continuous improvements to lighting/retrofitting schemes

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • embed good practice lighting guidance within their Local/Development Plans • Ensure substantial lighting schemes, such as those for schools, businesses and sports areas, are competently designed and meet DNS and other environmental criteria • submit an annual report of activities to maintain the IDSR status
		8 BG'	Support parish councils in promoting good practice lighting to their residents and businesses, offering Dark Sky Friendly Parish Award
		8 BG(Investigate the potential for sponsorship/provision of low cost good practice outside light fittings within the AONB
8 BG'7'	The multiple benefits of dark night skies are understood, valued and enjoyed by all	8 BG)	Work with other UK 'Dark Sky Places' and related organisations to improve awareness and understanding across the country of the need to reduce light pollution
8 BG'8'	The AONB, tourism and related businesses jointly promote, and benefit from, the AONB as a prime destination for stargazing holidays	8 BG*'	Develop a Dark-Sky Friendly Accreditation Scheme for local tourism and allied businesses
8 BG9'	An AONB observatory offers regular stargazing activities together with educational and study opportunities for residents, visitors and schools	8 BG+'	Determine a potential location, design criteria and funding requirements necessary to establish an AONB Observatory within the timeframe of this Plan

© J B ; ' 5 B 8 ' K C F ? = B ; ' © B 8 G 7 5 D 9 G '

12. Rural Land Management

Rural land management encompasses farming, forestry, fisheries and game management. In this deeply rural AONB, landowners and managers have been the custodians and sculptors of the landscape for centuries. Today and tomorrow, their activities will continue to shape and mould the landscapes we see around us. They will deliver the food we need; they will help with the supply of clean air and water; they will offer recreational opportunities.

12.1. Special characteristics and qualities that make this AONB special, as a whole, with regards to rural land management:

- The agricultural character of the AONB is typified by arable cropping, especially the south-eastern sector and on the West Wiltshire Downs.
- There are several large estates within the AONB resulting in consistent agricultural regimes over large areas over time.
- The Vale of Wardour and the north-western edge of the area are mostly grasslands.
- A typical AONB farm is slightly larger than the regional average and consists of predominantly arable land with some permanent pasture and woodland. It is the mixed nature of the holdings that contributes significantly to the special qualities of the landscape and its biodiversity.
- The mosaic of broad-leaved, mixed and coniferous woodland, shelterbelts, copses, hedgerows and veteran trees is a distinctive element in the AONB landscape.
- The AONB is one of the most intensively managed game landscapes in the country. This reflects the heritage of the area as a Chase and the character of the downlands. Historically there were early cereal crops making way for early season partridge shooting. Much of the focus is now on pheasant shooting which contributes to the social and economic development of rural businesses and communities.
- The legacy of previous land management adds to the historic dimension of the landscape.

Ambition

- 12.2. The management of the rural land of this AONB will be sustainable. This will meet the demand for food, fuel and other produce in ways that conserve and enhance the landscape character of the AONB and deliver increased public benefits.

Key Achievements

- **'Raising Our Game'** ! Production of the first integrated landscape management advice for game managers in a protected landscape. Research conducted with game managers by the AONB with analysis by The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust.
- **'A Landscape View of Trees and Woodland'** ! Guidelines for tree planting for each landscape character type within the AONB.
- **7c!cfXjbUHX'K ccX': i Y' b]hUj YfB\$\$+!&\$- £!** This was undertaken jointly with Protected Areas in South West England. It included distribution of a wood fuel information and questionnaire leaflet, two demonstration projects and two practical seminar events attended by 50 interested parties. A Wood Fuel Fayre attracted 150 attendees.
- **6 jYbbjU'7 fUbVcfbY7\ UgY'K ccXZUf fB\$\$+!&\$% £!** This major event attracted around 7,000 visitors over a weekend. It very successfully acted as a showcase for the AONB and its woodland management, woodland owners, crafts people and allied industries.
- A woodland owners and managers seminar, **'AU_Y'K ccX'UbX'K cf_'** was held jointly with the North Wessex Downs AONB in April 2017, attracting over 30 participants. Workshops focussed on the economic and practical problems of the management of small-scale and/or undermanaged woodland, potential markets and how to optimise timber sales.
- A joint consultation response was prepared with Dorset AONB on the Forestry Commissions **8 fUzi: cfYghD'Ub** for woodlands of Cranborne Chase and North Dorset 2016-2026.
- **Gci h 'K]hg\ JfY: Ufa `UbX'6 JfX'Dfc YWh(&\$- !&\$%) £!** Cranborne Chase AONB hosted the project officer who gave one to one advice to 147 farmers on creating and managing essential year-round habitat for the six most threatened farmland bird species (see Natural Environment Chapter). An outcome was the creation of over 1000ha of new habitat, mainly through the Natural England's Environmental Stewardship Scheme. In 2015, the project won the Bowland Award, awarded annually for the best project, best practice, or outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty by the National Association of AONBs.
- **: Ufa `7 cbgYfj Ujcb'Dfc YWh-** 2015 onwards. The main component of the Farm Conservation Project (developed from the farmland bird project) involves bringing together groups of neighbouring farmers in groups or 'clusters'. Within the Farm Conservation Project Area, there are currently three established farmer clusters. They surround Martin Down National

Nature Reserve to form a 'supercluster' and represent over 30,000ha of land in total. Thirteen farms in the Wylve Valley make up a new cluster, covering an area of 8000ha of farmland from Sutton Veny to Steeple Langford. The Farm Conservation Adviser also works with farmers submitting applications to Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

- **@bX'a UbUj Yfg'gYa jbu'g'**! The AONB held land managers' seminars that focused on topics of current interest such as species protection in the farmed landscape and game management in a protected landscape.

Key issues

1. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the European Union has steered agriculture for decades. The decision to leave the EU means CAP will no longer govern the agricultural industry. The Government's 25 year Environment Plan and ministerial commitment that public money (to agriculture) must produce public goods (environmental gains) create huge environmental opportunities. In the transition to a new agri-environment regime, there are opportunities to test options that restore soil health, produce healthy food, conserve wildlife, sustain clear air and clean water, and enhance landscapes within sustainable farming.
2. To ensure the sustainable management of the AONB's rural land, it is essential that farmers are encouraged to adopt good environmental and agricultural practices. Then the nation can achieve the aims of improved soils, more wildlife, and sustainable food production.
3. The area once had a thriving dairy industry but the number of dairies has declined. Cattle and sheep numbers however have remained steady over the past decade whilst pig figures show a drastic reduction from 48,000 to 13,000. The shelters associated with extensive pig rearing can have a detrimental visual impact in our open landscape areas.
4. Many woodlands are either under-managed or do not have a coherent management plan. The wood-fuel market continues to offer an opportunity to bring more small woodlands into positive management.
5. The AONB is one of the most intensively managed game landscapes in the country and the effects of this are not fully appreciated and valued. This sector can create significant social, environmental and economic benefits but, if poorly managed, can have negative impacts.
6. The impact of pests (and particularly pest and wildlife management) is a major issue for forest managers, landowners and nature conservationists. There is an increase in the number of alien species, pests and pathogens entering the natural environment, with many being recorded almost monthly. In May 2018, the Forestry Commission noted 30 new pests and diseases affecting

livestock, and 15 affecting trees in the UK.⁴⁵ These can have a devastating effect on the natural environment and livelihoods.

7. The rivers of the AONB, particularly in the catchment of the Hampshire Avon, are some of the finest trout streams in the world, valued highly by fishermen. However, climate change and other factors threaten this heritage and the benefits that flow from it. Water flows in rivers and streams could become more erratic; or too much water can be abstracted. In addition, diffuse pollution occurs through poor land management practices, reducing water quality.

The Issues Explained

- 12.3. Farmland covers over 86% of the AONB; together with woodland cover this rises to 96%⁴⁶. The landscapes we cherish are the result of the interactions of nature and human activities over centuries. The stewardship of land managers over past generations, and the commitment of many today, is critical to sustaining, and enhancing, these landscapes in to the future.
- 12.4. European farming grant schemes have been the largest single public investment in the AONB to date. However, past stewardship payments did not reflect the profitability of arable farming, resulting in some farmers terminating their agreements prematurely or not partaking at all.
- 12.5. The current uptake of environmental stewardship schemes within the AONB is nonetheless above the national average with 44% of the 'utilisable agricultural area' under Environmental Stewardship Schemes. The 152 agreements in place in the AONB cover over 34,000 hectares.
- 12.6. The UK will formally leave the European Union (EU) in March 2019. The government anticipates that we will agree, with the EU, an implementation period for the whole country lasting for another 21 months. There will be an additional 'agricultural transition' period in England. This will give farmers time to prepare for new trading relationships and environmental land management systems.
- 12.7. From 2022 onwards, a new environmental land management system will be the cornerstone of the UK agricultural policy, achieving improved biodiversity, water, air quality, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and cultural benefits that improve our mental and physical well-being and the safeguarding of the historic landscapes.
- 12.8. The new environmental land management scheme(s) (NELMS) will be underpinned by payment of 'public money for the provision of public goods'. In 2015, UK farmers received £2.4b in direct payments (Basic Payment Scheme (BPS)) and the total to be directed to NELMS remains unclear. While environmental enhancement and protection are of key importance, better

⁴⁵

<http://www.bbk.ac.uk/geography/our-research/ecss/webber11.pdf>

⁴⁶

Natural England (2014), Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes, NE 31 March 2014

animal and plant health, animal welfare, improved public access, rural resilience and productivity are also areas where farmers and land managers may need support in the future.

12.9. The AONB designation provides a platform for integrating the support provided to the sector with wider environmental, social and economic opportunities. In doing so, AONBs could be vital test beds in helping develop a more sustainable approach to agriculture in England

12.10. The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan focuses on using and managing land sustainably, recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes and connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing. It also commits to undertaking a review of National Parks and AONBs. The review, led by Julian Glover, will report on the options for improving access to AONBs, and on the support needed by those who live and work in them. It will also explore the role these designations have in growing the rural economy.

12.11. There are many practices that can be adopted by farmers that will bring environmental and commercial benefits, such as:

- sustainable utilisation of soil, minimising erosion;
- effective water catchment management;
- avoidance of direct pollution and measures to reduce diffuse pollution;
- farm waste minimisation and recycling.

National and local policies must support and encourage farmers in making decisions that bring these “win-win” solutions to the challenges of the future.

12.12. As part of the Landscape Partnership Scheme, there are plans for bringing woodland owners together to work collectively, as with the farm clusters, managing their holdings more effectively and finding new markets for the timber. Creating local wood-fuel supply chains was one of the top five recommendations in a review of the business opportunities that arise from valuing nature correctly⁴⁷. Businesses using the wood fuel may enjoy reduced costs with local and secure fuel supplies. They may also benefit from the Renewable Heat Incentive. There may be marketing benefits for some companies from using green energy. The report identifies the main barrier to be a lack of confidence in the long-term consistency of the supply chain preventing demand. This lack of demand then holds back the confidence to increase the supply. There is a need for technical support and training to ensure managing woodland for fuel is undertaken sustainably. The need is to develop local cooperatives surrounded by groups of users. This will help link local supply chains.

12.13. Indications are that the market is improving for timber sales (Forestry Commission 2018). There may be opportunities for woodland extensions or creation, appropriate to the relevant landscape character. With the increasing

⁴⁷ 'Realising nature's value: The Final Report of the Ecosystem Markets Task Force'. March 2013 www.defra.gov.uk/ecosystem-markets/files/Ecosystem-Markets-Task-Force-Final-Report-.pdf

incidence of pests and diseases, landowners may need to be flexible in considering the species chosen for planting schemes.

- 12.14. The research for 'Raising Our Game' document (2011) highlighted the importance of game shooting as a reason for acquiring, retaining and managing land. It has a significant effect on the local economy. In 2011 game management provided significant employment and housing, 30.5 full-time equivalents in our sample of 42 shoots. The game sector of the AONB is at least as robust as in 2011, if not stronger. It attracts large numbers of day and weekend visitors to the AONB and supports a significant hospitality service outside of the main tourist season.
- 12.15. There are approximately 120 shoots in the AONB. Many are of modest size whilst a few shoots are larger concerns with the turnover of a medium-sized company.
- 12.16. A significant proportion of the River Avon System is within the AONB. It holds two Natura 2000 sites; the Hampshire Avon Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the Avon Valley Special Protection Area (SPA). The Hampshire Avon is one of four demonstration test catchments in England, a Government-funded project designed to study how to control diffuse pollution from agriculture to improve and maintain water quality in rural river catchments areas.
- 12.17. There has already been much good work undertaken such as the river restoration work of the Wessex Chalk Streams Project. Additionally, the Wessex Chalk Stream and Rivers Trust continues to be very active in its river restoration work delivering innumerable benefits to water quality and conservation. Much more remains to be achieved however, if our world-class fisheries are to be sustainable in the face of climate change and other challenges.

Objectives and Policies

C6 > 97 H=J9'		DC @7 -9G'	
F @A '5'	Land managers are aware of how their activities can impact on the landscape and environment of the AONB	F @A '%'	Offer AONB focused landscape and land management training, as appropriate.
F @A '6'	Farmers, foresters, game and fishery managers actively assist in conserving and enhancing the landscape and	F @A '&'	Work closely with all relevant stakeholders, particularly farmers and Defra, to design New Environmental Land Management Scheme opportunities that will conserve

environment of the AONB through their business operations		and enhance the landscapes of the AONB
	F @A ' '	Offer Cranborne Chase AONB focused land management advice to support and encourage the formation of further farm clusters throughout the AONB
	F @A ('	Support and encourage appropriate woodland management, encouraging skills training, reconnecting supply chains and increasing biodiversity, including PAWS restoration.
	F @A) '	Work with partners, such as the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, to disseminate appropriate information and advice on how game management practices can positively contribute to AONB purposes and collaborate in further research to this end.
	F @A * '	Identify good agricultural practices that that are appropriate to the challenges facing the farmers of the AONB and disseminate through networks, partnerships and training.
	F @A + '	Work with, and support partners such as the Environment Agency, private land owners, fishery managers, Trusts and Natural England, to deliver programmes and projects that bring environmental benefits to catchments while securing a viable future for fisheries.

(Additional Information: Rural Land Management Appendix 31)

13. Planning and Transport

Land use and development topics are inherently central to 'conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the landscape'. The planning functions of the AONB Partnership, including transport matters, naturally interlink very closely with landscape and rural economy issues. The Government's 25 year Environment Plan (2018) emphasises embedding the principle of 'environmental net gain' for developments, including housing and infrastructure, locally and nationally. That embraces choosing the right places for development, avoiding environmental damage, protecting natural capital, and building to high environmental standards.

13.1. Special characteristics and qualities that make this AONB special, as a whole, with regards to planning and transport:

- Organisationally complex; there are currently seven Local Planning Authorities, four Highways Authorities together with Highways England, and Network Rail.
- A largely rural, open, and undeveloped area comprising landscapes sensitive to change.
- Predominantly agricultural land uses but with an unusually high proportion of woodlands and forestry in parts.
- Landscapes of considerable scenic beauty, with extensive views, and hosting important habitats and species.
- The landscapes are rich in history with significant visual and archaeological features.
- Distinctive settlement patterns with historic elements readily visible and central to the character of settlements.
- Architectural styles vary considerably throughout the AONB, dependent on availability of building materials.
- The built environment forms an integral part of local character and distinctiveness and adds to the diversity of the AONB landscape as a whole.
- Large historic country houses at the centre of historic parklands and gardens and other characteristic buildings.
- Two separate railways converge through this AONB on Salisbury but only a single station within the AONB.
- Limited public transport and special buses needed to get students to schools.
- A single north – south main road route and four roughly east – west roads, two of them Trunk Roads.
- A minor road network that reflects the deeply rural, tranquil character of the

AONB, with few realignments and improvements.

- One of the darkest skies in southern central England that needs comprehensive lighting regulations to allow the stars to be seen by future generations.

Ambition

- 13.2. Planning and transportation strategies, policies, and decisions that affect this nationally important AONB both conserve and enhance its special qualities. Where development is necessary, it is located and designed to integrate fully with the landscape character and natural beauty.
- 13.3. All management of, and improvements to, roads enhance the distinctive character of the area. There will be a range of more sustainable options for transport that reduce its effects on tranquillity and the natural environment of the AONB.

Key Achievements

- **D`Ubb]b[`DfctWt`** ! All local planning authorities signed the planning protocol in 2005 (Appendix 19). It was refined in September 2006. The AONB is a consultee on Local Plan / Core Strategy documents as well as Minerals and Waste Plans. All planning applications over a certain size, or any applications that may have an adverse impact on the AONB, are sent to the Partnership for comment.
- **BU]cbU`Dc`]WYg`** – Both independently and in combination with other AONBs, the Partnership has contributed to, and influenced, 12 national policy consultations since 2004.
- **; i]XUbW`8 cW a Yb]g`** – The Partnership has produced nine AONB Position Statements, and ten Fact Sheets and Good Practice Notes (*See Appendix 20*). They provide information on topics of relevance to the landscape and planning within and around the AONB. Their purpose is to guide applicants, communities and planning officers.
- **D`Ubb]b[`dc`]WriUbX`Udd`]WU]cbg`!** Since 2006, Local Planning Authorities have received relevant AONB information in response to 247 policy documents and 1800 planning applications. This input enabled them to take proper account of the AONB and its setting.
- **5 ddYUg`UbX`-bei]f]Yg`!** The Partnership has provided 38 planning appeal responses to the Inspectorate since 2006; given evidence at major appeal Inquiries securing successful outcomes for the AONB and its setting; and contributed to future strategies at five Plan Examinations in Public.
- **D`Ubb]b[`UbX`HfUbgdcf]U]cb`GYa]bUfg`!** There have been twelve annual seminars since 2005 with, on average, over thirty delegates at each. Focusing on a topic relevant to the time, these seminars are highly valued as continuing professional development.
- **A]H[U]cb`cZA Ucf`8 Yj Y cda Ybh`** – To compensate for the unquantifiable

disruptions to the landscapes and tranquillity of the AONB due to the installation of their strategic water main across the AONB, Wessex Water provided funding to the AONB's farm conservation activities for 5 years.

- **GYWjcb,) ``YUZYh-** Provides guidance on the 'duty of regard' for the purposes of AONB designation for public bodies, organisations, and persons in public office. It is an example of good practice in Natural England's advice on the topic.
- **@bXgWUdY7\ UFUWYf** –The Historic Landscape Character Assessment, the Historic Environment Action Plans and the detailed Landscape Character Assessment for the Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme area supplements the Landscape Character Assessment. Planning staff have been offered specific training to enable them to incorporate landscape matters into their work and decisions.
- **@bXgWUdY'GYbg]hj]mi!** This seminal study (2007) of the inherent sensitivity and robustness of the landscapes of the AONB continues to guide and inform decision making.
- **HfUbei j`]mi!** The team has taken forward the CPRE data, supplemented by field surveys, to relate the findings more precisely to the landscape character areas of this AONB. Our work has been presented as good practice internationally as well as being taken as the basis for further work in two National Parks.
- **5 ; i]XY'hc `7 cbgYf j]b[`UbX'9b\ UbW]b[`h Y'GYH]b[`cZH Y'Fi fU'FcUX' BYtk cf_ `cZH Y'5CB6`** –Acutely aware that the public most frequently perceive the landscapes around them from roads, this document provides guidance on the landscape management of the highway corridors across the AONB.

Key issues

1. **8 Yj Y'cda YbhdfYggi fYg'** – There are frequent proposals for renewable energy generation, waste treatment, large-scale agricultural storage and general warehousing and distribution. There is an inconsistent approach to replacement dwellings and additional 'essential worker' dwellings across the AONB; and a shortage of affordable housing for local people⁴⁸. The annual requirement on Local Planning Authorities to invite the identification of housing sites, along with the current round of Core Strategy / Local Plan consultations, can encourage speculative market housing proposals from landowners or developers. Neighbourhood Plan groups feel under pressure to identify development sites. Proposals for replacement dwellings are leading to a higher proportion of larger, less affordable, dwellings.
2. **Gi gHJ]bUV]]mi-** There is a presumption in favour of sustainable development in the National Planning Policy Framework. However, awareness and

48

Position Statement Number 10 - Housing within the Cranborne Chase Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty

understanding of the exception in the case of AONBs⁴⁹ needs to be raised. At a more detailed level, developers appear reluctant to provide appropriate renewable energy generation and adequate storage space for recycling in domestic and commercial, new build and extension situations.

3. **8 Jj YfgjZVUjcb** – Diversification on a farm can help the local rural economy, particularly if this puts redundant farm buildings to a good use. However, the new use must be right for the AONB and its setting. Increasingly, proposals are coming forward that are not apt. This can relate to an increase in traffic and loss of tranquillity as well as changes to form, scale and appearance that affect the special qualities of the AONB.
4. **HfUbgdcfh!** Effective and frequent public transport for an extensive area with a low population is prohibitively expensive. The result is that buses are few and private vehicle ownership is high. There is a shortage of affordable parking at transport nodes to facilitate greater use of public transport. A lack of stations on the two railways through the AONB means they are an underutilised resource.
5. **FcUXg!** Highway management and maintenance does not always reflect the special characteristics of the AONB. The routing of freight traffic through the AONB has a negative effect on tranquillity.
6. **@[\ h]b['bi]gUbWV** – National data shows the general loss of dark night skies and the risk of light pollution encroaching on the dark skies of the AONB⁵⁰. Poorly directed or excessive lighting can cause sky-glow. This reduces the ability to see and enjoy the night-sky. The Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, makes it possible to deem artificial light emitted from premises to be a statutory nuisance under certain conditions. However, this is only relevant regarding light as a nuisance to a particular household(s). Much stronger, wide ranging lighting policies are required. Some of the Local Planning Authorities include conditions in planning consents regarding lighting issues in line with this AONB's policies on lighting, others have yet to put this in motion. (See also Chapter 11 Dark Night Skies)
7. **I bWwfHJbmi** – The government has recently issued a revised NPPF but the implementation and interpretation of it have yet to be tested.
8. Government has issued its 25 year Environment Plan, which appears to put greater emphasis on conserving and enhancing the natural environment nationwide. Government is also embarking on a review of English National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In addition, government sees a need to build hundreds of thousands more houses in England. The state of

⁴⁹ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework, HMSO, July 2018 – paragraph 11 (and footnote 6)

⁵⁰ National Framework Data sheet PLNB9 2013: based on National Tranquillity Mapping Data 2006 developed for the Campaign to Protect Rural England and Natural England by the University of Northumbria. OS Licence number 100018881.

the national economy following the referendum on leaving the European Union, and the protracted exit negotiations, add further uncertainty.

The Issues Explained

- 13.4. Seven local authorities are responsible for planning policy, transport policy, development management decisions, and enforcement within the AONB. The AONB team supplies specialist professional expertise and informed advice and judgements to the LPAs. Neighbourhood Plans, explained in paragraph 5.31 can refine the policy details for a parish or group of parishes. Planning authorities, and their Planning Committees, are under a legal duty to have regard to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB⁵¹. They also have the permissive power to take all such action they need to in order to accomplish this⁵². In terms of land-use planning this requires two principal actions. Firstly, there must be consistent and coherent policies in place to achieve the purpose. Secondly, there must be understanding and timely use of these policies. One role of the AONB Partnership is to share good practice.
- 13.5. Applications for planning permission are determined in accordance with the Local Planning Authority's Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The National Planning Policy Framework (Appendix 7) does not change the legal status of the Development Plan as the starting point for decision-making. At the heart of the framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development although restrictive policies apply to AONBs, Green Belts, SSSIs, and similar designations.
- 13.6. The reviewed National Planning Policy Framework continues to instruct local planning authorities to make a distinction between Protected Areas and 'other' countryside⁵³. In an AONB, [fYUik Y][\ hgl\ ci `X'VY[[j] Yb'hc `W&bgYf j]b[` `UbXgWUdY'UbX'gWb]WVYU hm(Appendix 21). Planning permission should be refused for 'major developments' (Appendix 22), except in exceptional circumstances; and only where it can be demonstrated they are in the public interest. All relevant local planning policy must distinguish between this AONB and non-designated countryside. NPPF paragraphs 174 and 175 seek net biodiversity gains in plans and planning decisions; a similar approach to landscapes should apply in the AONB.
- 13.7. Despite the weight given to AONB matters in the NPPF there is a tendency for LPAs to give particular weight to the views of statutory consultees in both policy formulation and development management decisions. The Government's review of English AONBs and National Parks currently provides an opportunity to promote, at the national level, that AONB partnerships should be statutory consultees for all planning and transportation matters affecting their area or its setting.

⁵¹ The duty is set out the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000: section 85

⁵² and the permissive power for planning authorities is in section 84(4)

⁵³ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework, HMSO, July 2018- paragraphs 11 (and footnote 6), 170 & 172

Development Pressures

- 13.8. The need for development proposals both to conserve and enhance natural beauty in the AONB is not fully recognised or implemented. Despite the NPPF stating that 'great weight' should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in AONBs, decision makers have a range of guidance to take into account. When judging the merits of applications, it should be borne in mind that an AONB has the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty.
- 13.9. Development proposals need to be in appropriate locations and of an appropriate form, scale, and materials. This will enable them to integrate with landscape character both within and adjacent to the AONB. All Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments (SHLAAs) should, from an AONB perspective, include Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs) to demonstrate that potential landscape impacts, including both location and integration within the landscape, have been taken into account.
- 13.10. The sense of place is easily lost. Suburbanisation and the cumulative effect of 'permitted development' can break down local distinctiveness. Replacing small-scale, locally distinct features with ones of a standard design erodes local character.
- 13.11. There are repeated, and occasionally temporary, changes to the General Development Order (*Appendix 23*) extending Permitted Development Rights⁵⁴. This can potentially lead to increases in traffic and changes to the appearance of buildings and land.
- 13.12. The cumulative effect of larger replacement dwellings is twofold; it changes the character of the locality and it reduces the supply of smaller, potentially more affordable, dwellings. The latter exacerbates a serious social issue, and the former may impact adversely on the 'conserving and enhancing natural beauty' criteria.
- 13.13. The four County Councils produce Minerals and Waste Local Plans.
- Whilst there is generally very little mineral extraction from within this AONB, there is a long history of providing locally distinctive building materials. This is mainly from greensand and sandy limestone (Chilmark stone). The need to safeguard local identity and distinctiveness by using local materials is understood. This strengthens the local vernacular. However, there is a need to take account of the potential disruption, visual and other impacts resulting from the extraction of materials to achieve this.
 - AONBs have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. In October 2016, the Partnership endorsed the df|bWd`Y

⁵⁴ The current General Development Order came into operation in 2015 but it was amended in 2016 (twice), in 2017 (twice) and in 2018.

that such landscapes are not places for the importation of waste for treatment, processing, or disposal.

13.14. Developments in the setting of the AONB can also have significant impacts on the area. Their consideration must be in relation to the purposes of designation. Construction of high or expansive structures, other development, or any change generating movement, noise, odour, vibration or dust over a wide area will affect the setting. As our appreciation of the relationships between neighbouring landscapes grows, so too does our understanding of what constitutes the setting.

13.15. Planning applications for development proposals within this AONB or its setting all too often do not demonstrate an understanding of the importance of supplying all the relevant information. ~~~~~~~~~ to assist applicants in making their applications the Partnership has endorsed (6 April 2016) a Position Statement on 'Good enough to approve in an AONB'.

Sustainability

13.16. There is continuing pressure to erect wind turbines and telecommunication masts in the AONB or its setting. These are very tall or substantial structures. They can detract from scenic beauty within the AONB and impair significant views to or from it. Similarly, extensive farm scale photo-voltaic arrays reduce the area of productive farmland. These types of developments can introduce a sense of 'industrialisation' into an otherwise unspoilt or tranquil landscape. They are frequently visually intrusive and fail to harmonise with the scale and character of the area. The AONB Partnership has produced a Position Statement on Renewable Energy, and one on Field Scale PVs.

13.17. Recycling storage space, composting areas, and roof based PV installations should be integral to the design of all new build, extensions and conversions.

13.18. The government has yet to clarify what it means by 'net environmental gain' from development. However, embedding that idea into the planning processes should help achieve the 'conserving and enhancing natural beauty' AONB criteria.

13.19. This AONB appears, from house price surveys⁵⁵, to add a significant premium to property prices. It therefore seems appropriate that such properties, when constructed or extended, should contribute to the management of the high quality landscapes that are enhancing their values. The Community Infrastructure Levy CIL (*Appendix 24*) is a mechanism that could allow a contribution towards AONB management, however this has not happened. Nevertheless, planning authorities have to have regard to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB⁵⁶. In addition, they have the power

⁵⁵ Strategic Land Availability Assessment Methodology, Table 5; Wiltshire Council, Sept 2011 and research by Savills at <http://www.savills.co.uk/blog/article/200876/residential-property/the-value-of-our-natural-heritage-in-property.aspx>

⁵⁶ The duty is set out the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000: section 85

to take all such action they need to in order to accomplish this⁵⁷. There needs to be a consistent but effective approach across the AONB that delivers a high quality landscape at a fair cost to all who benefit. One way would be for the Local Planning Authorities to show how their use of CIL meets their duty to conserve and enhance the AONB. The chapter on Sustainable Communities considers the setting of a separate Developer Contributions scheme to direct a proportion of the enhanced value to conserving and sustaining the character, qualities, and landscapes of the AONB.

Farm diversification

- 13.20. Some farm diversification proposals risk industrialisation of the countryside and a loss of tranquillity. There is potential for AONB locations to be viewed as cheap options for activities that should be located in a business park close to where potential employees live and outside the AONB e.g. waste processing or treatment.
- 13.21. The Partnership supports the diversification and re-use of redundant rural buildings for economic activities where it sustains the local economy and benefits the communities of the AONB. It must, of course, conserve and enhance natural beauty. An example is composting and anaerobic digestion. Local schemes that minimise transportation can fit with the AONB purposes. To do so they must comply with the three elements of 'from the farm, on the farm, for the farm'. Such schemes are not apt if the materials are not local; if processing is not at source; and if the product is not used on site. The Partnership has endorsed a Position Statement on Farm Diversification.

Roads and Transport

- 13.22. Most people see and appreciate the landscape from roads. The highway corridor often echoes the adjacent landscapes. Both of these factors are particularly important in AONBs. Therefore, the highway environment warrants special attention to reflect and sustain the special qualities and characteristics of the AONB. The effects of transport in the AONB are managed through the policies and programmes in the Local Transport Plans of the highway authorities, and the programmes of Highways England. These plans aim to:
- improve access to key services;
 - integrate transport provision and infrastructure improvements; and
 - promote sustainable forms of transport.
- 13.23. The AONB has four A-roads running east to west (A354, A30, A303, A36) and one (A350) running north to south on its western edge. The A303 and A36 are trunk roads managed by Highways England. On B and C roads, 'rat runs' develop avoiding the busy A roads. Heavy vehicles and traffic flows on these more rural roads, especially through daily commuting, can cause congestion,

⁵⁷ and the permissive power for planning authorities is in section 84(4)

pollution and loss of character and tranquillity; and damage to verges, the roads themselves, and buildings.

- 13.24. Road design that does not consider the special qualities of the landscape can harm the character of the AONB. Road safety will always be a prime concern but that does not preclude sensitive design of schemes and street furniture. Traffic management schemes, usually involving reduced speed limits, have the potential to urbanise rural situations and have not reduced the daily ‘rat runs’ caused by those avoiding A-road congestion. The safety of vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and horse riders remains an issue in the AONB.
- 13.25. There is little incentive to use public transport. There are infrequent bus services and just one rail station in the AONB, with parking limited and costly. The use of public transport would increase if there were better and affordable parking facilities near-by. Village ‘hubs’ could be created to provide parking, easy access to public transport and village facilities. This merits further research.

Lighting Nuisance

- 13.26. In order to secure International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR) status, there must be a comprehensive Lighting Management Plan in place within the reserve. This will set criteria to limit the upwards and sideways emission from external lighting for private and public landowners within that area. An absence of detailed lighting policies within current Local/Development Plans is a hindrance to implementing good lighting practice when determining planning applications. The Local/Development Plans for the nine Local Authorities cover different time-periods. This means some may be willing to consider adding specific lighting policies relatively quickly whilst others suggest they are not in a position to do so for some time. (See also Chapter 11 Dark Night Skies)

Objectives and Policies⁵⁸

C6 >97 HJ9		DC @7 9 G	
DH5	The AONB inputs effectively to national, regional and local strategies, policies and plans	DH%	Ensure the purposes and objectives of AONB designation are fully recognised in the development and implementation of Core Strategies/Local Plans,

⁵⁸ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework, HMSO, July 2018. Paragraph 170: Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment

			Local Transport Plans, Neighbourhood Plans, Green Infrastructure Plans and other public policies, strategies and programmes.
		DH&	Encourage, and contribute to, coherent and consistent formulation and implementation of planning policies, including across Local Authority boundaries, to ensure they take full account of the local distinctiveness, character, and quality of the AONB and its setting.
		DH	Strongly advocate at national levels for initiatives to ensure AONBs are statutory consultees on all planning and transportation matters affecting their area and its setting.
		DH(Encourage, support and inspire local communities to prepare and adopt Neighbourhood Plans and other similar initiatives, such as Village Design Statements, that respect the special landscapes of the AONB and the objectives of this Management Plan.
		DH)	Encourage and assist local communities to identify local needs /

			environmental projects that help offset impacts of development, conserve and enhance local character and distinctiveness, and utilise the Neighbourhood proportion of Community Infrastructure Levy.
DH6	Strategic and local decisions are formulated taking full account of the purposes of designation and are implemented in a comprehensive, coherent and consistent way with regard to the character and quality of the area and its setting, together with views into and out of the AONB, such that these decisions result in no net detriment to the special qualities of the AONB	DH*	Work with local planning authorities to identify and remove any barriers to agreeing appropriate and costed projects / activities that help achieve Management Plan objectives or projects, as set out in NPPF 34, to be then included in their Infrastructure Delivery Plans (IDPs).
		DH+	Strongly encourage Local Planning Authorities to direct Community Infrastructure Levies towards agreed and appropriate AONB Management Plan objectives, projects or activities, as set out in their IDPs
		DH,	Seek to achieve net landscape enhancements and biodiversity gain through partner Local Planning Authority policies and Development Management processes

DH	The Partnership will positively promote AONB purposes, aims and objectives to relevant policy and decision makers both within and outside the AONB through provision of regular information, training sessions and/or through the Annual Planning and Transportation Seminar.
DH/\$	Ensure that all relevant authorities are aware of their duty to have due regard to the purposes of AONB designation in carrying out each of their functions and duties as required by Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
DH/%	The AONB planning protocol continues to be used by local planning authorities to ensure that the AONB Partnership is consulted on all development and land use change proposals that meet the criteria or may have a significant impact and/or effect on the characteristics, special qualities, or setting of the AONB including views into and out of the AONB.
DH/&	Encourage Local Planning Authority partners to adopt Supplementary

	Planning Documents that ensure the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty and setting of the AONB.
DH%	Encourage Local Planning Authority partners to be guided by AONB Position Statements, Fact Sheets and Good Practice Notes, along with other published guidance that reinforces AONB purposes, when plan making, negotiating, or decision making.
DH%	Development proposals in the AONB or its setting should demonstrate how they have taken account of the AONB Management Plan objectives and policies.
DH%	Local Planning Authority partners ensure that where new development is permitted, it complements the special qualities of the AONB and takes full account of the area's setting and context through the consideration of appropriate Landscape Character Assessments and sensitivity and design studies.
DH%	Support renewable energy generation by technologies that

			integrate with the landscape character, are neither visually intrusive to the AONB or its setting, nor impair significant views to or from it, are not harmful to wildlife, and are of an appropriate scale to their location and siting.
		DH%+	Seek to remove or mitigate visually intrusive features, including overhead wires, pylons, and masts.
		DH%₉	Support farm diversification activities that facilitate rural tourism, land based enterprises, and the reuse of rural buildings that do not result in an increase in traffic, or loss of character or tranquillity, and that help sustain local communities.
		DH%⁺	The Partnership will rigorously assess and respond to all planning applications that meet the planning protocol criteria.
		DH&\$	The Partnership will develop further Position Statements, Fact Sheets and Good Practice Notes to inform decision makers at all levels on issues affecting the AONB.
DH7⁺	Policies and schemes aimed at meeting the housing and	DH&%	Work with Local Authority partners to establish policies that

<p>employment needs of local communities enhance the special qualities and characteristics of the AONB, including its built heritage</p>		<p>encourage appropriate use of sustainable technologies, such as solar thermal, photovoltaics and wood fuel (at the appropriate scale) and provide sufficient space for short term handling of waste and recyclable materials, in both domestic and employment situations and, in particular, within all new build projects.</p>
	DH&&	<p>Encourage the identification of affordable housing sites in Neighbourhood Plans where that is consistent with the primary purposes of the AONB designation and takes full account of the local distinctiveness, character, and qualities of the locality.</p>
	DH&	<p>When considering proposals for housing development in the AONB, LPA partners will give emphasis to affordable housing, and will treat the AONB as a rural area (NPPF Para 63) where the government's restriction on the requirement to provide affordable housing does not apply.</p>
	DH&	<p>Work with local authority partners to ensure that the replacement of existing dwellings in the AONB and its setting are only</p>

			<p>supported where all the following criteria are met:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the replacement dwelling is not materially larger than the one it replaces; ii. the proposed dwelling does not materially impact on the special qualities of the AONB, especially through its height or bulk; iii. the proposed development will not generate the need for additional ancillary development including storage, parking and hard surfacing; and iv. the proposed permanent dwelling does not replace a temporary structure or one where the residential use has been abandoned
		<p>DH&)</p>	<p>Work with local authority partners to ensure that the replacement of existing permanent buildings in the AONB and its setting are only supported where all the following criteria are met:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the replacement building is not materially larger

	<p>than the one it replaces;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. the replacement building is in the same use as the one it replaces; iii. the proposed building does not materially impact on the special qualities of the AONB, especially through its height or bulk; iv. the proposed development will not generate the need for additional ancillary development including storage, parking and hard surfacing.
<p>DH&*</p>	<p>Work with local authority partners to ensure that within the AONB and its setting, extensions to existing permanent buildings are only supported where :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the proposed extension does not materially impact on the special qualities of the AONB, especially through its height or bulk; and ii. the size and scale of the proposed extension is not disproportionate to the existing building; and iii. the proposed development will

			<p>not generate the need for additional ancillary development including storage, parking and hard surfacing.</p> <p>iv. The size and scale of any garage or outbuilding within the curtilage of a dwelling in the AONB and its setting must be proportionate to the dwelling.</p>
DH8	<p>Transportation planning and management takes full account of the AONB designation, protects the tranquillity and special qualities of the landscape and reduces transport impacts on the environment and communities of the AONB</p>	DH&+	<p>a. AONB partner organisations utilise a consistent approach to the design, provision and maintenance of highways and associated features through joint implementation of the 'Conserving and Enhancing the setting of the AONB Rural Road Network' highways guidance.</p> <p>b. Major road schemes need to avoid physical and visual impacts on the AONB and its setting, mitigate impacts that cannot be avoided, provide landscape and biodiversity enhancements, and provide compensation for residual and</p>

			unquantified impacts.
		DH&	Promote and help develop an integrated system, whereby roads, railways, public transport and Rights of Way networks are more accessible and interconnect, minimising the impact of traffic on the AONB and encouraging a safer and more attractive environment for walking, cycling and horse riding.
		DH&	Seek to minimise freight transport through the AONB to help protect tranquillity, the rural nature of settlements, and the special qualities of the AONB
		DH \$	Promote the provision of affordable parking facilities at public transport nodes, car sharing and community transport initiatives to enable and encourage a reduced reliance on private cars
<i>(Additional Information: Planning and Transport Appendix 33)</i>			

14. Sustaining Rural Communities

The low population density, absence of large settlements within the AONB and daily commuting outside the boundary mainly for work, all potentially threaten the economic viability of remaining local services such as post offices, pubs, doctors' surgeries, village shops and village halls. Alongside the key land-based industries of farming, forestry, game management and related businesses, the rural economy of the AONB comprises a range of small to medium sized businesses. The high quality environment offers immense opportunities for the further development of low impact, sustainable, rural tourism.

14.1. Special characteristics and qualities that make this AONB special, as a whole, with regards to sustaining rural communities:

- Sparsely populated AONB with an absence of large-scale settlements, reinforcing a deeply rural 'sense of place' amongst AONB communities.
- Community spirit is strong in many settlements, as demonstrated through participation in 'Village of the Year' competitions, restoration of lost parish features and organisation of annual fetes, festivals or traditional events.
- Many AONB Parishes have taken the opportunity to express their aspirations by producing Neighbourhood Plans.
- Community enterprise thrives in the AONB through a range of initiatives, including the development of several Community Land Trusts and at least nine community owned and run village stores, each providing other services in addition to retail.
- Generally, however, the majority of employment opportunities are either outside the AONB in the boundary towns or further still afield, with a concentration of employment through a few large employers.
- Strong 'high tech' business growth also occurs at the periphery of the AONB where broadband speeds are generally higher.
- The diverse landscapes, wildlife, historic and cultural features are very attractive to visitors, along with a number of notable visitor attractions
- Artists, authors and musicians are also known to be attracted to this stunning landscape to work
- The seasonal game sector supports several high-end hospitality businesses, primarily 'boutique' style public houses and accommodation providers
- With 96% of the AONB under agriculture or forestry, there are a number of locally based allied services such as vehicle repair/servicing

businesses, currently two livestock markets on the periphery, various timber yards, feed millers/merchants and local craft / food producers.

Ambition:

- 14.2. A thriving rural economy ensures economic and social wellbeing and helps sustain the landscape. Local communities appreciate and care for the AONB; residents enjoy a high quality of life.

Key Achievements

- **Fi fU'8 Yj Ycda YbhDfc[fUa a Y9b['UbX'!** 'this AONB has a successful record over a decade of gaining European LEADER funding and facilitating the utilisation of it.'
 - **Gck]b['G998 G** Local Action Group (2009 -13) - the AONB team along with partners helped to secure £1.5m of LEADER funding to improve the economic and community wellbeing of the area. The Local Action Group area covered the whole of the AONB and parts of North and East Dorset. Over 30 projects were funded during the programme. (See Appendix 18).'
 - The **<YUfhcZK YggYI** Local Action Group (2015-20). The AONB team and partners secured £1.87m of European LEADER funding to improve the economic and community wellbeing of the Wiltshire part of the AONB. The north and east Dorset areas of the AONB are covered by The Northern Dorset Local Action Group and the Hampshire section by the New Forest Local Action Group. At least seven projects within the AONB have received grants totalling £145,661. These include a 10th Anniversary refit for Wrens Shop in East Knoyle and the restoration of Springhead House, a centre for creative and sustainable living in Fontmell Magna. '
- **Gi ghU]bUV'Yfi fU' lci f]ga** - 'The 'Discover Nadder' initiative developed during 2012-13 with funding from Sowing SEEDS LEADER programme. 'Discover Chalke' followed in 2014-15 through AONB funding and a grant from the South West Wiltshire Area Board. The 'Discover' initiatives aim to encourage networking, sharing best practice and collaborative working to offer 'visitor packages' within the AONB comprising arrival pick up, travel between B&Bs and pre-planned walks/routes to explore.
- **HUghY'h Y7\ UgY** - First held in April 2016 this first local food producers' event received very good reviews from businesses who valued the opportunity to meet new potential sales outlets in the morning (shops, pubs, B&Bs) and the chance to market their wares to the public in the afternoon. Similar but expanded events to include craft producers are planned.
- **5 'a UF_ Yh]b['dUW U] Y** was distributed to AONB businesses during 2016-17 including an AONB 'locator logo' to utilise on packaging or products and a 'Sense of Place' cd containing copyright free photos, village, views and landscape descriptions, together with quotes from local communities for businesses to use in their own marketing. Evaluation of its potential

usefulness to producers and recognition by consumers is ongoing, in advance of a revision in 2018/19.

- **7 ca a i b]mgl cdg!** East Knoyle, Hindon, Maiden Bradley, Semley, Coombe Bissett, Wylde, Dinton, Witchampton and Broadchalke have community shops, primarily run by volunteers. Five were supported with AONB Sustainable Development Fund grants and several won LEADER support. The award winning Chalke Valley Stores in Broadchalke has a multi-functional 'hub' comprising a community shop, post office, café, archive area and office space through the multi-use of the United Reform Chapel. This still functions as a chapel on a Sunday. Shortly after opening, the store was voted the winner of the Daily Telegraph/Countryside Alliance competition for the Best Village Shop and Post Office in the UK. The centre is extremely well used with support from around 95 volunteers.
- **A UghYgg'a cV]Y'd\ cbY'W:j YfU] Y-** A few years ago, 3G mobile phone reception was achieved by the local estate and businesses in Cranborne via a trial Vodaphone 'Femto' system using unobtrusive aerials on buildings rather than tall masts. In early 2018, the CH4LKE Mobile⁵⁹ began trialling similar independent 4G to serve Bowerchalke and surrounding villages.
- **Gi ghU]bUV'Y'8 Yj Y cda Ybh: i bX'fG8 : £-** This AONB fund supports projects that bring social, environmental and economic benefits to the AONB and that help to conserve and enhance its culture and heritage. It aims to develop and test new methods of achieving a more sustainable way of life. Communities value it as it enables them to restore local features, increase the resilience of local services and find new uses for redundant entities

Since its creation in 2005, 116 projects have benefited with SDF expenditure of just over £345,000. After local match funding, the total value of all projects was nearly £2,813,000 demonstrating the efficient and effective use of SDF leveraging in new resources at a rate of 1 to 8.1 (see Appendix x). However, budget reductions over time have reduced the available SDF funds to £3,000 in 2018/19.

Key Issues

1. **@U]]b['H Y'9I** will undoubtedly lead to a period of uncertainty for many businesses and communities within and around the AONB. This may preclude some business start-ups, hinder expansion of others but may also provide new opportunities. Successive LEADER programmes have brought a considerable boost to many AONB businesses through grant aid. On leaving the EU, the LEADER funding programmes will no longer be available to the UK.
2. **'Green' sustainable tourism** within the AONB, which can provide an income for local people and support awareness and enjoyment of the landscape remains, as yet, under-developed. Increased income from tourism is also

⁵⁹

CH4LKE MOBILE is a Community Interest Company set up to provide 4G mobile and fixed wireless broadband services to the Chalke Valley and surrounding area, see: <https://ch4lke.co.uk/>

hampered by a scarcity, and lack of variety, of visitor accommodation available.

3. There remains **U`UW`cZV`bg]ghYb]UbX`Z`W`ggYX`a`Uf`Yh]b]** promoting the wealth of local products and services on offer within the AONB.
4. Generally, **dcf`VfcUXVUbX`gdYYXg`UbX`a`cV]`YfYWdh]cb** continue to hamper the growth of rural businesses. The average broadband speed across the UK is 6.5 megabits per second. In the AONB, many people cannot access an acceptable level of broadband service; it can be less than 2 megabits. Without careful design and planning, and the consideration of technologies, the infrastructure to deliver improved services can degrade the natural beauty.
5. **5W`Yj]b]`gi`gh]bUV`YW`a`a`i`b]h]Yg`** – Local people have a range of housing needs. Property values in the AONB are generally, and noticeably, higher than just outside it and there is a lack of affordable housing within this designated area.
6. **@WU`ZM]h]Yg`UbX`gYf]j]Wg`** - Many communities value and prefer to use local facilities that they can access easily, without the need to use a car. It can be difficult to supply facilities and services cost effectively to a dispersed and sparse population. It is a major challenge to secure a full range of services for all to access.
7. **bZi`YbV]b]`h`Y`d`Ubb]b]`gnghYa`!** Local people want to influence the future of their Parish and the outcomes of the planning system. Individual development proposals can create divisions. Neighbourhood plans, village plans⁶⁰ and village design statements are all ways for local people to get together and set out a vision for their area⁶¹. Grants are available, but communities need support in putting these plans together.

The Issues Explained

- 14.3. In the period of the run up to Brexit, there has been new thinking in relation to agricultural and environmental policy. Apart from the land based sector, other rural businesses make a substantial contribution to the national economy with 19% of the country's output coming from rural businesses⁶². With LEADER and other rural development funding ceasing after leaving the EU, any successor funding is not yet detailed or confirmed.
- 14.4. Land based employment within this AONB is mainly focused within the productive aspects of farming and forestry; the seasonal game sector and the allied service/product businesses. Other employment comprises those businesses that provide a range of services to local communities and some

⁶⁰ Village plans have different names within the 4 counties eg in Hampshire they are Parish Plans or Community Plans

⁶¹ These matters are set out earlier in greater detail in paragraph 5.4

⁶² Professor Mark Shucksmith, Centre for Rural Economy.

largely tourism focused attractions that gain their income mainly from visitors from outside the area.

- 14.5. Many of these businesses depend on the high quality natural environment that the landscape provides, but they can also help maintain and enhance those environments. Attracted by the qualities of this landscape, creative businesses such as arts and crafts enterprises, are also flourishing.⁶³
- 14.6. This AONB provides a high quality setting for the tourism sector. As well as several outstanding National Trust properties and Longleat Safari Park, there is a very strong business case to have the AONB at the heart of 'green' tourism. There are many sustainable, low impact tourism opportunities in the area including walking, cycling and horse riding, visiting historic sites or enjoying the range of local events. The creation of an International Dark-Sky Reserve status could give a huge boost to the 'astro' or 'green' tourism sector. Even as the bid is developed, the promotion of the undoubted dark skies of the AONB is extensive. (See Dark Night Skies Chapter 11).
- 14.7. Until the 2012/13 Sustainable Rural Tourism Project there had been little promotion or marketing of the opportunities. Local tourism networks are still only now just emerging. The sector can improve the quality of the visitor experience and the quality of life of the local community.
- 14.8. Past campaigns such as 'Taste of the West' encourage consumers to purchase locally sourced food. This helps forge closer links between producers and customers. The 'Taste the Chase' initiative in Cranborne Chase AONB increased consumers' understanding of the countryside; how food is produced; and where food comes from. Several thriving community shops stock and promote mainly local produce.
- 14.9. Promoting the AONB with a strong brand linked to the AONB's special qualities could considerably increase the contribution that tourism makes to the rural economy.
- 14.10. Good communications are essential if the local economy is to grow. Superfast broadband allows easier and more efficient ways to do business and makes it possible to work from home. Good communications can also help reduce rural isolation and digital exclusion. People can be in touch with family and friends. They can find new ways of receiving public services. The challenge is to encourage provision without the use of intrusive masts, or other infrastructure in the landscape that would have a detrimental effect on the scenic beauty of this AONB.
- 14.11. There is a lack of affordable housing for youngsters or those wishing to come into the AONB for work. People with higher than average incomes are attracted by the beauty of the AONB landscape as a desirable place to live. This has led to a consequential rise in house prices. Houses in this AONB cost in the order of 26% more than comparable properties outside⁶⁴. There is a gain in value

63

64

So Much More Than the View – material published by National Park England and the NAAONB
See research by Savills at <http://www.savills.co.uk/blog/article/200876/residential-property/the-value-of-our-natural-heritage-in-property.aspx>

simply by being in a protected landscape. A percentage of that gain could be utilised to help manage the landscape of this AONB.

- 14.12. Affordability is an acute issue for newly forming households and many young people move away to find more affordable properties in the bordering market towns or further afield. This can lead to an imbalance in the age and social structure in rural communities, with less support for services such as schools, shops and a loss of social networks. There have also been changes in consumer behaviour (e.g. online shopping) and cuts to public funding (e.g. public transport routes). Both can lead to the closure of local facilities and services with fewer people using services and facilities.
- 14.13. The loss of a rural Post Office can also work against small local businesses that use postal/delivery services to receive materials and to distribute services and products. However, the growing numbers of community-run village shops have taken some of the AONB's stand-alone Post Offices in-house.
- 14.14. Many people want to exercise their right to get involved in development decisions that affect them. The Localism Act 2011 gave people more input to the development of their local area through the creation of Neighbourhood Plans or Neighbourhood Development Orders. Support and encouragement is needed to enable communities engaging with the planning process and their local planning authority, to ensure that they meet statutory requirements and take account of all aspects of what makes rural communities viable. This AONB has offered advice and helped input to 8 Neighbourhood Plans to date.

Objectives and Policies

C6 >97 H J 9		DC @7 9 G	
GF7 '5	Local communities benefit from a sustainable rural economy, based on the resources of the AONB, that also conserves and enhances its landscape character and special qualities	GF7 %	Utilise funding initiatives that emerge to help achieve the needs of the local economy without compromising the special qualities of the AONB landscape and environment
		GF7 &	Work collaboratively with landowners, farmers and allied businesses to improve the land-based sectors resilience and profitability whilst helping to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB landscape

		<p>GF7' '</p>	<p>Encourage efforts to provide superfast broadband to all AONB communities that avoid adverse impacts on the habitats and scenic beauty of the AONB.</p>
		<p>GF7 ('</p>	<p>Support the development of appropriate recreation and tourism facilities, including a range of quality accommodation, that support a sustainable visitor economy whilst promoting and enhancing the special qualities of the AONB</p>
<p>GF7 '6'</p>	<p>The AONB is promoted as a high quality Sustainable Rural Tourism destination</p>	<p>GF7) '</p>	<p>Signpost AONB tourism businesses to information and skills training, support, and advice to enable their businesses to be more sustainable and to better promote the special qualities of the AONB to visitors</p>
		<p>GF7 * '</p>	<p>Continue to develop the AONB brand, locator logo and an Ambassador Scheme for communities and businesses to inspire a strong sense of place, encouraging high quality, green tourism initiatives and marketing that contribute to the understanding, conservation and enhancement of the area.</p>

		GF7 +	Work with businesses and artists to develop a public art trail for 2020 that encourages increased footfall to business within the AONB whilst raising the profile of the AONB
GF7 '7'	Proactive and cohesive communities enjoy a high quality of life	GF7 ,	Work with partners to increase the provision of affordable housing in and around the AONB where that is consistent with the primary purposes of AONB designation
		GF7 -	Formulate, with relevant partners, a developer contribution scheme to secure monies from the enhanced property values in the AONB to support the management of the AONB's character, qualities, and landscapes which bring about those heightened values.
		GF7 %\$. . .	Support community initiatives that promote sustainable lifestyles such as those embracing community shops or combined/mobile community facilities, appropriate renewable energy schemes, energy efficiency, community woodlands, recycling and community transport in order to encourage and maintain the viability and diversity of rural community life
		GF7 %%	Encourage and support additional communities to engage with the

			Neighbourhood Plan process, taking account of the wider landscape, environmental, cultural and historic aspects of their community area as well as the social and economic factors that may affect it
--	--	--	---

(Additional Information: Viable Rural Communities Appendix 34)

15. Awareness and Understanding

The AONB comprises living, working landscapes shaped and managed by people. The natural beauty, historic and cultural heritage has long provided inspiration for artists, crafts people, writers and musicians; many of whom have made the area their home. To ensure that all recognise, enjoy and value the landscapes, it is vital to improve awareness and understanding of the AONB.

15.1. Special characteristics and qualities that make this AONB special, as a whole, with regard to awareness and understanding:

- The AONB is an inspirational area; a 'hidden gem' with a wealth of visual, natural, historical and cultural characteristics.
- Cultural footprints through the ages are visible throughout the landscape.
- The diverse and distinctive elements comprise the AONB are a valuable, mainly untapped, educational resource.
- Many local people and visitors value the special qualities of the area, including its tranquillity and dark night skies.
- There are nearly 2/3 million people within thirty minutes drive of the AONB in surrounding market towns, and the Bournemouth and Poole conurbations.
- The landscape character of the AONB can be appreciated and valued by non-experts
- The AONB boasts a wealth of myths, mystery and legends.

Ambitions

15.2. Everyone understands and values the area's special qualities and landscape character. This will include its historic and natural assets, its traditions and its mystery and mythical qualities. They will understand what the AONB designation means and why the area was designated. They will want to visit and spread the word. We want everyone to promote and support the AONB.

Key Achievements

- **This AONB's** **Za JmcZk YVgJHyg'** – The AONB website is one of a suite of sites developed to promote special topics and projects; Chasing Stars, Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme, Historic Landscape, Cranborne Chase Landscape Trust and the sustainable tourism sites Discover Nadder and Discover Chalke Valley. The AONB website boasts regular news stories and a full calendar of events occurring

in the area.

- **5 CB6** **YUZ Yrg** – Several general information leaflets on the area, its places, and its food have been published. Packs of walking and cycling routes have been produced for the sustainable tourism. These packs are in tourist information centres, especially those in the border market towns of Blandford, Salisbury, Shaftesbury, Warminster and Wimborne. In addition to a suite of information and guidance notes on development topics, including landscapes and neighbourhood planning, a number of leaflets focus on our bid for International Dark Sky Reserve status. One includes the top 10 places for stargazing within the area and another offers guidance on good lighting.
- **5 CB6** **: cfi a g** - In response to the increasing consultation demands on community volunteers, the Partnership holds a forum biennial rather than annually. Around 50-70 attendees come from different interest groups, both from within and outside the area. Presentations and workshops focus on topics of current interest.
- **H Y9!6 i** **Yhb** - This monthly E-bulletin presents a vast array of stories. These are not only connected to the AONB Partnership's work, but also to projects and events run independently. While it still lacks the reach of The Hart⁶⁵, which was a hard copy newsletter sent to every home and business within the AONB, the E-bulletins have proved to be an effective way of keeping touch with communities.
- **7 fUbVcfbY7\ UgYUbX'7\ U_YJU`Ym@UbXgWUdYDUfHbYfg\ Jd`GW Ya Y`f777 J`@DGL** – a first stage pass for this Heritage Lottery funded project has generated significant community interest and through innumerable meetings and consultations to develop the round two bid has contributed to raising the profile of the whole AONB.
- **GcWU`a YXJU!** The AONB is now very active on social media. However, a revised promotional strategy is needed, as numbers 'following' these accounts could be improved.
- **@WU`UbX`bUhcU`dfYgg`Wcj YfUj Y`** – The AONB received national press coverage in 2017 in Country Life magazine and in local glossy 'Life' titles. These include Wiltshire Life and Dorset Magazine, the farming press and the Warminster Journal. The AONB submits a regular column to the Blackmore Vale Magazine that covers the majority of the area.
- **K ccX` : Ujf`** – There were five Cranborne Chase Wood Fair events held on a biennial cycle from 2007-2015. Each attracted around 7,000 visitors. The primary aim of the weekend event was to showcase AONB woodlands and their ongoing management. This included the variety of skills and craftsmanship that produce locally sourced and produced goods and services. Feedback from the events was consistently excellent but austerity measures during the last few years led to its cessation.
- **6 fUbX]b[`]b]hUj Y`** – The AONB team and Bournemouth University are working in tandem to highlight the special, mythical, mysterious and magical

65 Publication was dropped because of rising costs.

treasures of the Chase. This may be the basis for further image and branding activities. A new brand image would help raise the area's profile and encourage tourism. This would link to the 'Sense of Place' tool-kit for communities and businesses to promote themselves as a part of the AONB and their sustainable tourism initiatives.

Key Issues

1. Low public profile of the designation.
2. The lack of awareness among some of the AONB population of the designation purpose or boundaries is a concern. People are often unaware of the benefits gained from the designation, such as the high quality environment, recreation and health and wellbeing opportunities or the role they can play in caring for the area.
3. Significance to partners and other organisations.
4. The AONB lies across the borders of four counties; Wiltshire, Dorset, Hampshire and Somerset. This generates an 'edge effect'. Other partners and organisations do not always have a full understanding of the designation; or of the work undertaken by the Partnership.
5. Engaging young people.
6. To date, it has been difficult to engage with young people. To do so is vital, as they will be the future custodians of the landscapes.

The Issues Explained

15.3. Despite the AONB being designated in 1981, and having a small team in place since 2004, the AONB Partnership continues to find that there is a limited understanding of:

- where the AONB boundaries are;
- why the area was designated;
- what the AONB designation means; and
- the benefits that it brings.

'When meeting members of the public when on the land, I feel there is a lack of awareness in the population both locally and nationally that this AONB exists. This probably needs to be addressed. It has the potential to bring more business to the local shops and pubs in communities within the AONB and so help them become more sustainable and build up village communities again as opposed to allowing them to become only satellites for the wealthy who wish to live in the country.'

- 15.4. On learning more about the AONBs existence and extent, a very frequent and familiar comment is one of surprise as to its size. The AONB has no '*Welcome to..*' signage on any roads leading into the area. A desk study determined that to sign each Trunk, 'A' and 'B' class road together with some minor, yet frequently used roads, between 36 and 41 signs would be required due to the frequency that these roads cross the AONB boundary. The number required and exact locations requires further discussion both within the Partnership and with the four Highways Authorities.
- 15.5. The many dispersed small villages and hamlets of the area might also be offered an AONB sign or logo to add to their village entrance signs to help raise the AONB profile, while the concept of adding the logo to Rights of Way way-markers has already begun, in partnership with Cranborne Chase Landscape Trust.
- 15.6. Awareness of the AONB will also improve with regular, consistent and engaging promotion, using a strong brand image and easily accessible information whether via hard copy, web sites or comprehensive use of all social media channels.
- 15.7. Knowledge of the area's special qualities, landscape character, its traditions and its historic and natural assets is not as widespread as the Partnership would like. Innovative digital or site based interpretation would increase understanding and appreciation of the AONBs special qualities. Regular engagement with residents and visitors of all ages (through annual programmes of walks, events and activities, competitions and/or a 'Pride of the AONB' award scheme) would also positively increase involvement and pride in, and enjoyment of, the area as well as raising its profile.
- 15.8. The AONB team already consults with, and works alongside partners, parishes, farmers and interest groups as part of its ongoing work programme or Management Plan reviews. However, this wide-ranging and extensive promotion and outreach work requires additional resources to be secured, if the critical link between the Partnership and the communities of the AONB is to be improved.
- 15.9. It is well understood and accepted that Local Authority and other AONB partners have changing and/or increasing demands placed on them; they also inevitably have personnel changes. The AONB Partnership should be aware of the need to consistently re-iterate or re-enforce information regarding its designation purpose and the duties of others towards it. On its behalf, the AONB team should consider if further information needs to be drawn together that would be specifically helpful to different departments or partners and how that information might be most effectively disseminated, e.g. a regular planners' bulletin, parish training workshops or 'surgeries' for communities

- 15.10. Aimed at businesses and parishes, the 'Sense of Place' promotional toolkit shows all the special places, views, activities and wildlife of the AONB. All were chosen by local people. Anyone is free to copy the text and pictures to use in their own marketing material. This sends out consistent messages about the area in which the businesses are based, offering businesses and community groups the chance to promote their business or parish events, and the AONB, in parallel and with one voice. This resource needs to be regularly reviewed and updated.
- 15.11. Social media is an incredibly important asset to the AONB, is a key communications tool, and especially significant in attracting the younger generation to engage with it. The AONB should continue to raise its profile and promote its activities, news and encouraging feedback via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest, amongst others.
- 15.12. The CCCV LPS is designed to attract, engage and involve all ages, backgrounds and abilities in discovering, learning about and enhancing the heritage of the scheme area, which covers approximately a quarter of the AONB. Some opportunities have been devised specifically to attract and engage youngsters. Exciting, creative projects with innovative digital interpretation have been developed to bring the AONB 'to life'. This scheme has the potential to significantly increase both the profile of the AONB, and appreciation of everything the AONB has to offer all residents and visitors. The AONB should grasp any opportunity to expand these projects across the whole area.

Objectives and Policies

C6 > 97 H=J 9'		DC @7 9G'	
51 '5'	The purposes of AONB designation are known and understood by all	51 %	Develop and promote a strong and distinctive identity/brand image for the AONB to all
		51 &	Work with partners to progress the potential for distinctive AONB signage at boundaries of, and within, the AONB
		51 ' '	Work with Local Authorities, parish councils, partners and community groups to develop AONB information and learning opportunities (information, training, seminars) relevant to their work
		51 ('	Continue to review and deliver the AONB Communications Strategy to ensure all the elements of the

			AONBs work are promoted via the most appropriate media/channels
51 6	The AONB landscapes, natural beauty and high quality environment are understood, valued and supported by all.	51)	Work, with partners, to investigate the potential to secure field based staff to help plan, manage and deliver an array of outreach activities throughout the AONB
		51 *	Develop and implement an Interpretative Strategy to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation across the AONB
		51 +	Seek specific opportunities to promote awareness, understanding and engagement of all aspects of the AONB to young people in particular, using the most appropriate
<i>(Additional Information: Awareness and Understanding Appendix 35)</i>			

16. Wellbeing, Involvement and Learning

Experiencing a deeply rural and tranquil area refreshes the mind, body, and soul. Volunteering is one means of becoming more personally involved in the local area whilst developing a range of practical and personal skills to help conserve and enhance it. Using the AONB as an educational resource for schools will help youngsters gain a better insight into environmental issues and experience the countryside around them. The vast network of Rights of Way offers opportunities for all to enhance their health and wellbeing in the 'great outdoors'.

16.1. Special characteristics and qualities that make this AONB special, as a whole, with regards to wellbeing, involvement, learning:

- A peaceful, tranquil, deeply rural area, with far reaching panoramic views uncluttered by industrial intrusions, a strong sense of remoteness and expanses of dark, star filled night skies supports the wellbeing of local communities and visitors.
- The AONB is close to nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ million people; they can each reach its borders in just 30 minutes
- There is a high quality and diverse range of natural, historic and cultural environments; they provide the widest range of opportunities for volunteering, and learning in a natural classroom
- The AONB has an extensive web of countryside access (Rights of Way, open access, permissive and named routes); the combined length of which would take you from Southampton to Edinburgh and back again.

Ambition

16.2. People's physical and mental wellbeing is improved through experiencing the high quality environment of the AONB for physical activity, relaxation and inspiration. People learn about, and understand, the natural, historic and cultural heritage of the AONB. People of all ages, abilities and backgrounds will have the opportunity to take up volunteering and countryside skills training in the AONB.

Key Achievements

- **7 ca a i b]mVcbgi`hUjcb`** has always been a high priority for this AONB, especially regarding Management Plan Reviews, offering the opportunity for communities and interest groups to help shape the future of their area'
- **I b]j Yfg]m`YUfb]b[`!** The Team hosted annual visits from Heritage Conservation undergraduates from Bournemouth and Bath Universities, and has established links with the staff and post-graduate sides of Winchester and Bournemouth Universities.

- 7\]a Uf_ ; UfXYb]b['7`i Vžj c`i bhYfg`UbX`gW cc`W]XfYb were all involved in growing and planting out plug plants on chalk grassland over three years whilst during 2017-18, over 650 attended stargazing evenings or visited the Mizon Travelling Planetarium with 450 children receiving 'Space Detective' workshops as part of their curriculum studies.
- **Ci IfYUW** – seminars and conferences have offered learning and involvement opportunities in recent years:
 - 12 annual landscape and planning seminars attended by officers, councillors and AONB colleagues;
 - AONB Annual Forums with up to 100 attending;
 - 2 woodland management seminars for owners and managers;
 - 2 major historic landscape conferences each attracting 100+ attendees;
 - 3 land manager seminars focussing on topical issues;
 - numerous presentations have been given to Parish Councils, natural and historic interest groups, University of the 3rd Age;
 - specific training on landscape and planning issues delivered to LA officers of relevant authorities

• : Ufa `UbX`6]fX`Dfc`YWici IfYUW `cj Yf` (`mYUfg

Media coverage highlighting the project and Cranborne Chase AONB	% `published articlesž` * radio interviews, & TV slots, & You tube videos, ')' `followers on Twitter, % blog posts
Presentations to farms	%&+`attended`
Project related training sessions	%) `farmers/landowners/advisers`
Public Walks and Talks	% `walks and talks for the public to ' *) people
Farmers and landowners attending project related events	& ' `

- **Jc`i bhYfg`–**
 - 300 potential volunteers have offered and/or given time for a variety of project work or research
 - 25 regular volunteers were crucial to the successful operation of five successful Cranborne Chase Wood Fair events
 - Foundations of Archaeology HLF funded project engaged with an additional 200+ trained and experienced volunteers 2015-17 with specific interest in the historic environment.
- 7fUbVcfbY7\ UgY`UbX`7\ U`_Y`JU`Ym@UbXgWUdY`DUf`bYfg\]d`- First

Round Heritage Lottery Fund pass. A successful second round bid will result in a £2.4m programme of work to conserve and enhance the natural, historic and cultural elements of the Landscape Partnership area, to enthuse people to engage with it, and provide a legacy of knowledge and understanding.

Key issues

1. The Government's 25 year Environment Plan⁶⁶ has an aim to connect people and the environment to improve health and wellbeing. It promotes three elements relevant to this AONB:
 - i. Helping people improve their health and wellbeing by using green spaces;
 - ii. Encouraging children to be close to nature, in and out of school; and
 - iii. Making 2019 a year of action for the environment - encourage adults and children to take positive steps to help the natural environment.
2. There is great potential in Cranborne Chase AONB to help achieve the government's goal of engaging people with the natural environment. Cranborne Chase AONB is accessible in half an hour to 2/3 million residents from the major conurbations of Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch with a further 120,000 people on its doorstep in the surrounding market towns, offering a potentially important place for informal recreation and increased health and wellbeing for those residents. This potential is restricted for many by very scarce public transport and a continuing lack of awareness of what the area has to offer.
3. There is a significant evidence base for the range of individual and wider social health and well-being benefits that can be achieved through outdoor activity and contact with nature. Dorset Local Nature Partnership (LNP) has been working with other LNPs across the South West on a Health and Nature Charter. The Partnership will positively explore the potential to sign this charter to cover the whole AONB⁶⁷. Relevant health professionals may not currently be aware of the breadth of opportunities the AONB offers for improving physical and mental health and wellbeing. It can be difficult finding and engaging with the most relevant health professionals with ongoing restructuring of the National Health Service.
4. Working with schools and youth groups has always been an ongoing ambition of the AONB Partnership with successful packages focusing on food miles/local produce and, more recently, 'Space Detectives'. Further work is needed alongside teachers and relevant partners to greatly increase awareness of the natural classroom on the doorstep of the many schools and higher education establishments in and around the AONB.

⁶⁶ The Government, A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, HMSO, 2018
⁶⁷ www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/Health_and_Nature_Charter

5. There remains a need for more round walking routes close to villages, routes suitable for the elderly, the less mobile and much better promotion of their existence. The Rights of Way across the AONB do not form a true 'network'; there are gaps where routes could be linked up. Signage and maintenance is not consistent across the area, which can lead to a variable quality of experience. Reduced County Council budgets for maintenance results in a greater reliance on local groups and volunteers to undertake practical work. The Rights of Way teams have some volunteer engagement and the AONB can help build on these initiatives. Accessing the countryside sustainably implies the need for more effective provision and use of public transport by rail and road.
6. Some partner organisations use volunteers in the conservation management of their own land or reserves in the AONB, however the majority of the AONB area is known as a 'black hole' for volunteering. There is a multitude of opportunities throughout the rest of the AONB landscape for engaging volunteers in numerous activities. There is a need for knowledgeable, experienced staff to plan, coordinate and lead this activity on the ground.
7. There is a growing interest in learning and developing traditional rural skills with communities suggesting hedge laying, scything, charcoal burning, thatching, weaving and stone carving, are of interest. There is a recognised loss of traditional countryside skills in the AONB including the skills needed to repair or restore historic buildings. Evidence shows a need, and desire, for a centre or hub for academic and life-long learning and volunteering within the AONB. As those colleges offering such learning are too distant to attend daily without personal transport.

The Issues Explained

- 16.3. Rural public transport is scarce within and around the AONB. There are regular, if infrequent, bus routes east/west between Shaftesbury, Blandford and Salisbury that do take in some villages however north/south routes are rare. Visiting Cranborne Chase AONB from the conurbations to the south (Bournemouth/Poole) is difficult without private transport. Nevertheless, greater promotion of this AONB to those living outside it should be undertaken, suggesting particular areas or points of interest for those unfamiliar with it.
- 16.4. For those who may visit more regularly for informal walking or cycling, promotion of day-visit and longer packages would assist by defining length of walk, difficulty, refreshment stops and 'nuggets' of innovative interpretation along the way.
- 16.5. It is important that the Health and Wellbeing Boards, together with the relevant professionals, are made aware of the potential opportunities for improving lives through access to the quality environment of the AONB. Key benefits can include better physical and mental health and guarding against future illness; therapeutic and restorative qualities which enhance recovery; reduced social isolation, greater community cohesion, and opportunities to establish lifelong healthy behaviours. Outdoor activity and contact with nature can also help

improve sleep patterns, reduce stress, improve mood and self-esteem, and provide meaningful social contact.⁶⁸

- 16.6. The AONB and relevant partners should encourage communities to take the opportunity to 'refresh mind, body and soul' here, through promoting the AONB as a 'natural health centre'. The green gym concept, developed by The Conservation Volunteers, provides people with a way to enhance their fitness and health while taking action to improve the environment.
- 16.7. 'Green prescriptions' are concepts becoming popular with GPs⁶⁹. These should all be developed and promoted by the AONB together with the Health and Wellbeing Boards and relevant partners. A full annual programme of guided walks, talks and activities by knowledgeable, experienced and appropriately trained staff or volunteers could also tempt more frequent visits from both within and outside the AONB. Closing gaps in the myriad of Rights of Way in the AONB should form an easily accessible resource for all and developing more circular routes in close proximity to homes, would also benefit those who may not venture out due to cultural barriers or lack of awareness or confidence.
- 16.8. Local and national nature reserves in the AONB offer localised volunteer opportunities. The 'Leisure Credits' scheme⁷⁰ in the AONB engages young people in practical environmental tasks; it would like to expand. There are also some active volunteers and groups focused on access. Nevertheless, there are few substantive practical volunteer activities in the wider countryside of the AONB.
- 16.9. There is now acknowledged support for a 'hub', or central base, for all types of volunteering, countryside skills training, together with an information and interpretative centre for visitors. This could be achieved through a multifunctional AONB Countryside Centre. This concept has generated interest from a wide range of people and organisations, many of whom would become partners. As partners, they would help devise training and volunteering programmes that will harness the knowledge, experience and enthusiasm of many.
- 16.10. As well as providing a focus for this nationally important landscape, a Countryside Centre could offer:
 - Accredited training opportunities in countryside management skills, conservation, agriculture, forestry, livestock/animal husbandry and a variety of rural industry skills (e.g. blacksmithing).
 - A wide range of volunteering opportunities including natural history surveys, historic research and countryside management tasks.
 - Exciting recreational opportunities such as guided walks, dark night skies events and utilising all terrain mobility scooters for the less able.

⁶⁸ <https://sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/>

⁶⁹ <https://sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/what-we-do/green-space/green-health-routes>

⁷⁰ The Leisure Credit Scheme 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.

- An opportunity to take part in or attend various art based activities focussed on the special qualities of the AONB.
 - Professional, environmentally related CPD training courses for environmental professionals locally, regionally and from further afield, which could include for example, countryside, agricultural, forestry and land agency staff, those attached to all the nationally Protected Areas, the renewable energy sector and teachers/lecturers. Participants would be encouraged to stay locally.
 - A visitor centre for the area providing information on which events are on, what there is to see and do in the AONB and surrounding market towns, encouraging visitors to stay longer and spend more locally.
 - A facility for hire to external companies or organisations wanting to hold their own events or seminars.
 - Environmental play schemes during the holiday periods, encouraging exchange of town/country experiences for young people.
- 16.11. Countryside management tasks led by competent and experienced staff, complimented by volunteers, will help to conserve and enhance the landscape of the AONB. The construction and running of the centre will demonstrate best practice. The intent is to use a variety of sustainable construction techniques and methods. It will demonstrate the use of green energy sources such as wood chip and solar power. Where feasible, volunteers or trainees will complete some of the construction work. The skills gained through the centre will improve the job prospects of trainees.
- 16.12. The loss of traditional skills is a significant issue for the future management of the landscape. A revival in such skills, and the ability to make a living from using them, should be encouraged.
- 16.13. Young people in the area have to travel a long way to attend county agricultural colleges and other training centres. For many potential students of all ages, the lack and cost of public transport mean that accessing countryside skills training can be very difficult. Access to accredited training needs to be made available closer to their homes.
- 16.14. The Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley LPS has involvement and learning embedded as a key element of all the individual projects but it should also be the foundation of the scheme legacy. Such a Countryside Centre would enable lifelong involvement and learning for all.
- 16.15. 2019 is the Year of Green Action for 10–20 year olds; encouraging social engagement within communities with a focus on green issues.

Objectives and Policies

<p>K =@5</p> <p>Improved health and well-being opportunities are developed and promoted throughout the AONB</p>	<p>K =@%</p> <p>Work with Health and Wellbeing Boards, relevant health professionals, Local Nature Partnerships and relevant funding initiatives to develop and promote activity programmes in the AONB to improve health and well being</p>
	<p>K =@&</p> <p>Investigate funding opportunities to enhance the Rights of Way / countryside access network for all, including the provision of vehicles suitable for use by the less able</p>
	<p>K =@</p> <p>Develop an annual programme of activities, with partners, for all ages and abilities to include a Walking Festival and targeted options for enhancing health, such as ‘a mile a day’ initiatives.</p>
<p>K =@6</p> <p>A wide range of opportunities exist for schools, residents and visitors to learn more about the AONB, volunteer or develop heritage and countryside skills</p>	<p>K =@</p> <p>Explore with Education Departments, and schools, how engagement with the ‘outdoor classroom’ of the AONB may add value to curriculum studies</p>
	<p>K =@</p> <p>Further develop an Involvement and Learning Strategy to increase learning, training and volunteering opportunities, improving countryside and heritage skills, within the AONB by the end of 2019/20.</p>
	<p>K =@</p> <p>Work with partners to engage field based staff/rangers to harness community and volunteer commitment and interest in the AONB to develop programmes of volunteer projects and activities</p>
	<p>K =@</p> <p>Investigate the potential to become a partners in the Duke of Edinburgh, and John Muir, Award Schemes</p>

K =@7	An exemplar 'AONB Countryside Centre' is established	K =@	Continue work to establish an environmentally and financially sustainable 'AONB Countryside Centre' by the end of this plan period, to act as the base for the AONB Partnership, volunteers, trainees, students, residents and visitors
<i>(Additional Information: Involvement and Learning Appendix 36)</i>			

17. The AONB Partnership

17.1. Special characteristics regarding the Cranborne Chase AONB Partnership:

- Inter-authority, cross border joint working to further the purposes of AONB designation. The seven Local Authorities involved are: Wiltshire and Dorset Councils; Hampshire and Somerset County Councils; and New Forest, Mendip and South Somerset District Councils. The percentage covered by each of the constituent Local Authorities is given in Map 3
- A total of fifteen national and local organisations of the Partnership contributing to the development of the strategic AONB Management Plans
- A consistent commitment to 'bottom up' community involvement and engagement in AONB matters
- The national, regional and local organisations represented on the AONB Partnership have contributed to this Management Plan as have a large number of interest groups, local communities and individuals. *The Partnership Structure is shown in Appendix 3.*

Aim

- 17.2. The organisations that make up the AONB Partnership, and all those that have responsibility and resources to help achieve the primary purpose, fully understand and take responsibility for 'conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the landscape'.

Achievements to date

- The preparation, publication and implementation of three quinquennial Cranborne Chase AONB Management Plans.
- Encouragement of additional partners and joint working, such as:
 - Historic Environment Actions Plans - partners include Historic England, archaeology groups, relevant Local Authority Officers, Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), local experts and volunteers amongst many others
 - South West Farmland Bird Initiative - partners included Wessex Water, Natural England, the National Farmers Union and farmers/landowners
 - The Farm Conservation Project - partners are the AONB, Wessex Water, farmers and landowners.
 - Ancient and Veteran Trees Pilot Project - partners included Hampshire County Council, Woodland Trust and volunteers
 - Tranquillity Study - partners included CPRE and volunteers

- Sustainable Rural Tourism Project - partners included Sowing SEEDS Leader funding, South West Wiltshire Area Board, local Chambers of Commerce, local businesses and volunteers
- Sowing SEEDS Leader programme - with Community Partnership Executive of North Dorset, Local Action Group (LAG) members and local communities
- Heart of Wessex LEADER programme – with South Somerset District Council, Frome Town Council, Wincanton Community Venture (The Balsam Centre) and Wiltshire Council
- Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme, Stage 1 bid success - AONB with Wyvern Heritage and Landscape Consultancy
- Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme, Stage 2 bid working in partnership with a multitude of professional and community partners
- Bid for International Dark-Sky Reserve status with the Commission for Dark Skies, British Astronomical Association, Wessex Astronomical Society, Local Authority partners, Lighting Consultancy And Design Services and many parish, interest and community groups.
- Heart of Wessex and Northern Dorset EU Leader programmes covering the Wiltshire, Somerset and Dorset parts of the AONB.
- First round pass for Heritage Lottery Funded Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership. A successful second round bid will result in a £2.4m programme of work to conserve and enhance the natural, historic and cultural elements of the landscape and to enthuse people to engage with it.

Key Issues

1. The engagement and commitment of AONB partners, and all those that have responsibility and resources to help achieve the primary purpose, to be directly or indirectly involved in delivering Management Plan objectives varies widely
2. Some partners are not fully aware of the range of documents and guidance produced by the AONB Partnership that could assist them in their duty to 'conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB'
3. Frequent personnel changes within Local Authorities, the restructuring of Local Authorities themselves, and other organisations often results in a lack of awareness and knowledge about the AONB, with new staff and/or councillors in post
4. The government initiated a Review of Protected Landscapes during 2018; it reports back to government in 2019. The Partnership will need to respond to the findings and outcomes of that Review.

The Issues Explained

- 17.3. The AONB Management Plan 2019-2024 is a strategic plan for the conservation and enhancement of the AONB drawn together on behalf of the 15 organisations that make up the Partnership. It has been endorsed by all 15 partner organisations and, in addition, has been formally adopted by the 7 Local Authorities.
- 17.4. Under Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 it is a legal duty for all relevant authorities to 'have regard to' the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB in exercising or performing any functions affecting land in the area. These relevant authorities include all statutory bodies, organisations and all tiers of government, including parish councils and holders of public office.
- 17.5. For government, local authorities, other public bodies and other 'relevant authorities', active support of the *implementation of this plan* is the key to satisfying their 'Section 85' duty.
- 17.6. The fundamental purpose of this Management Plan is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB. Co-ordinated and collective action is needed by a wide range of interests to ensure that the AONB continues to provide valued environmental benefits, including clean air, water and food, maintains strong, vibrant local communities and is enjoyed by future generations.
- 17.7. The AONB Partnership has worked with a wide range of partners in the delivery of actions on the ground. It will be increasingly important throughout this next plan period to retain existing partners and attract new ones. It has the administrative backing, structure and experience to facilitate the Government's 25 year environment agenda and offer locally based agency services; implementing national policies at a local, landscape scale.
- 17.8. Local Authorities are large organisations and often have staff changes. The communication skills of Partnership representatives need to be exceptionally good to ensure relevant documents are continually fed down through each organisation and contact between the AONB and relevant staff is maintained.
- 17.9. It is vital that as many people as possible are engaged in helping to achieve Plan objectives. More emphasis will be placed on encouraging and managing additional partner organizations, communities, volunteers and interest groups to become involved in helping make the vision for this AONB a reality.
- 17.10. The success of the Plan depends upon good relationships and joint working between public bodies at all levels, statutory and non-statutory agencies and organisations, farmers and land managers, community groups, interest groups and individuals. The diverse challenges and accelerating pace of change that face the AONB must be seen as an opportunity for all sectors of the community, in its widest sense, to work together. Pooling resources, sharing expertise and working together present the best opportunities for conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of this AONB.

Objectives and Policies

C6 >97 H-J9		DC @7 → G	
D	All current and new AONB partners work pro-actively to jointly achieve Management Plan objectives	D%	Existing partners review and agree a new partnership structure during 2019, including a review of partner organisations invited to join the Partnership
		D&	The AONB team and all relevant partners collaborate and sign up to individually or jointly delivering themed Action Plans covering the time span of the Management Plan
		D'	Each partner ensures that all protocols, Position Statements, Fact Sheets, Good Practice and other Guidance documents are known about, understood, used by all relevant departments and officers.
		D('	Ensure high-level officers and Members are aware of the AONB designation, purpose(s) and duty towards it, through Member briefings, training sessions and the Annual Forum.

18. Funding

Aim

- 18.1. Funding is secured to support the core work of the Cranborne Chase AONB Partnership and Team and project work is underway utilising pooled resources of several partners or externally acquired funding.

Achievements to date

- Sowing SEEDS Leader programme - £1.5m.
- Heart of Wessex LEADER programme - £1,811,448
- Heritage Lottery Fund, Parish Archive Project - £50k.
- Heritage Lottery Fund, Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership First Round bid - £100k
- Natural England, SW Farmland Bird Initiative - £28k pa (4 years).
- Wessex Water partner funding for SW Farmland Bird Initiative - £25k pa until 2017.
- Wessex Water Partners Programme - £10k pa over consecutive Partner Programmes
- Additional Local Authority contributions for specific projects e.g. Ancient and Veteran Trees Pilot Project and Farmland Bird project (Hampshire County Council) and 2010 Heritage Lottery Fund application (Dorset County Council).
- Campaign to Protect Rural England - contribution to AONB tranquillity study and the Parish Appraisal Good Practice Guidance.

Key issues

1. The government requires and expects the highest level of protection for AONBs. The level of future exchequer funding over the Plan period is, at the time of writing, unknown.
2. Local Authority budgets are diminishing whilst demand for their services and funding increases.
3. Applications to external grant programmes are becoming increasingly competitive with many organisations and conservation groups experiencing reductions or cuts to funding.
4. Opportunities to pursue additional and alternative funding sources and mechanisms are crucial and demand the necessary resources to be allocated to this task.

5. Local Authority Partnerships, such as the AONB, are ineligible to apply to certain funding programmes e.g. from some Trusts and Foundations.

The Issues Explained

- 18.2. Local Authority funding is likely to reduce over the plan period whilst future central government funding levels are currently unknown post 2020. During the five year period 2015-20, exchequer funding levels were confirmed in advance. This gave much welcomed security in forward planning. Potential income has been lost through grants being cut or reduced; Local Authorities are often no longer able to continue some of their work, such as biodiversity partnership coordination and there is increased competition for funding to key funders such as the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 18.3. It will be increasingly important to ensure that the purpose of AONBs is widely communicated both locally and nationally. Cranborne Chase AONB will maintain a close relationship with, and input to the work of, the National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONBs). This body represents the AONB Family on national issues including policy and advocacy, communications, training and securing resources.
- 18.4. The Partnership must have regard to the skilled staff resources at its disposal and the financial projections over the next five years. The resources for delivering all Plan objectives have not been secured at the time of writing this Plan. Many of the most significant actions will require the pooling of resources by several organisations and/or success in attracting funding from a range of public, private and not-for-profit sector sources.
- 18.5. Given the current tight financial circumstances there will be a need for all partners and the AONB team to prioritise workloads to ensure a strong focus on the core AONB purpose, to 'conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area'.
- 18.6. It will be increasingly important for the AONB Partnership to secure external funding to deliver project work on the ground, particularly if there are ongoing reductions in core budget.
- 18.7. The Cranborne Chase Landscape Trust, registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2015, sits alongside the AONB Partnership. Whilst an independent organisation, its purposes align closely with those of the Partnership. The Trust may be able to access funding currently not available to local authority partners.

Objectives and Policies

C6 >97 HJ9		DC @7 9G	
:	Secure resources are in place to support the core	: %	Undertake an assessment of current and future resource

functions and project aspirations of the AONB Partnership throughout this Plan period and beyond		requirements to devise a future strategy to attract additional external funding to achieve objectives throughout this Plan period and beyond
	: &	All funding partners transfer their agreed percentage contribution to the core budget each year, as set out in the AONB Partnership Agreement
	: ' '	Work with the National Association of AONBs and Defra towards a long term, secure funding commitment
	: ('	Support the Cranborne Chase Landscape Trust to submit external funding bids, secure donations and/or consider alternative income raising opportunities to help achieve AONB purposes, including a visitor contribution scheme
	:) '	Actively seek funding, and partnership working, from non Local Authority partner organisations for specific core and project work, such as Local Enterprise Partnerships, Local Nature Partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards
	: * '	Actively engage with future UK/English rural development initiatives national initiatives to secure funding for appropriate project work

19. Implementation

Who implements the Management Plan?

- 19.1. The whole Partnership has a key role to implement this ambitious Management Plan through individual actions as well as partnership working. Successful implementation is beyond the resources of just the Partnership or AONB team alone. Whilst the team takes a lead in much of the implementation work and initiates new and innovative projects, it is the responsibility and duty of all partners to take positive action to conserve and enhance the AONB and seek additional partners.
- 19.2. This Plan does not identify all the activities and people involved in its delivery; it is a framework for action. A separate **Delivery Plan** will set out work to be undertaken under themes, for the 5 years covered by the Plan. The small AONB team may have the role of facilitator or advocate for some of that work, whilst leading in other areas. However, significant parts of the Delivery Plan will only be effectively delivered with the assistance of current, and future, partner organisations, working together in an integrated way to achieve multiple objectives. The creation of a field-based team may be one way to deliver a number of actions arising from the policies in this management plan.
- 19.3. It is recognised that it is essential to involve partners fully in agreeing actions, responsibilities and resource allocations to secure their genuine commitment to Management Plan tasks that require their involvement. The Delivery Plan is reviewed each year, to reflect any uncertainties regarding future policy and funding and enable the Partnership to be flexible in how it responds to the challenges and opportunities presented.
- 19.4. While the profile of the AONB is improving over time, there remains a general 'disconnect' between the AONB Partnership and Team and local communities and visitors. The Partnership Delivery Plan will include considerable work to increase awareness and understanding of the AONB, implement practical work on the ground and closer working with local communities, landowners and farmers. There is also a rapidly growing body of volunteers both within and outside the area. It will be increasingly important to engage, support and manage volunteers to assist with delivering work programmes.
- 19.5. By helping to implement this Plan, government, local authorities, public bodies and other 'relevant authorities' will be contributing to their 'Section 85' duty to "have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB". It is important that the strategies, plans and action plans of key local, regional and national authorities, agencies and organisations take account of and reflect the vision, objectives and policies of this plan.

Objectives and Policies

C6 >97 HJ9'		DC @7 9G'	
=	All current and potential partner organisations are committed to and involved with the achievement of Management Plan objectives	≠%	Foster closer working relationships with local authority officers and members to ensure understanding of management plan objectives and integration of work where appropriate
		≠&	Ensure the work of theme-based groups is closely focused on achieving relevant management plan objectives
		≠'	Establish and maintain close relationships with external organisations and bodies, both public and private, whose programmes of work could support the delivery of management plan objectives
		≠'	Strengthen and support working relationships with local parishes, communities, landowners, volunteers and other stakeholders to improve local delivery of management plan objectives
		⇒'	Explore new ways of working to deliver the actions arising from the policies in this plan

20. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 20.1. Monitoring and evaluation of this Management Plan and the actions outlined within the Delivery Plan is an essential task for the AONB Team and is grant-aided as part of the core activities undertaken. There are essentially two types of monitoring work:
- **DYfZfa UbW'a cb]rcf]b[** - to establish whether actions outlined within the AONB Delivery Plan have been undertaken. This is an important activity and will be reported on a regular basis to the AONB Partnership and Partnership Forum. An Annual Report will summarise the activities of both the AONB Team and partners. It will include details of the tasks undertaken, the effect upon the AONB (outcomes) and the funding and other resources employed.
 - **7 cbX]hcb'a cb]rcf]b[** - to establish if actions undertaken have had the desired effect, or impact, on the AONB. To monitor condition effectively, initial base line information is required in order that comparisons can be made and an evaluation of change over time. Some base line data is currently held by the AONB.
- 20.2. Monitoring and evaluation requires resources and it is therefore crucial that those attributes, or features, of the AONB that are a meaningful measure of AONB quality are chosen. These form a suite of indicators that can be measured, monitored and evaluated over time.
- 20.3. A Monitoring Framework for Protected Landscapes was developed by Natural England to provide a consistent framework for measuring environmental outcomes in protected areas. It provided evidence to inform the next review the AONB Management Plan, review the 'State of the AONB' and demonstrate the benefits of protected landscape designation. However, due to reductions in NE resources, the provision of the data from Natural England will cease after 2018.
- 20.4. Indicators have been chosen and set out for each of the ten chapters in this Plan, for the following reasons:
- they focus on the primary reasons for designation ie landscape, special qualities, natural and historic environment and management of land
 - the data can be cut to the AONB boundary
 - they add to baseline data for measuring the 'State of the AONB'
 - they add to evidence required for funding bids
 - desired indicators that will only be acquired through additional resources (£) or with the assistance of volunteers (*vols*). (*The latter indicators are in italics.*)

Landscape:

- Changes identified through analysis of fixed point photography at a minimum of every five years (AONB)

- Land use change (Defra)
- Take up of relevant themed groups of Environmental Stewardship (ES) options that contribute to conserving and enhancing landscape character (£)
- *Change in % of AONB recorded as 'most tranquil' (£/vols)*
- Changes in extent of dark night skies (*mapped using light meter readings taken by volunteers across the AONB*)
- Length of overhead power cables laid underground (SSE)

Natural Environment:

- Number and capacity of renewable energy applications permitted/constructed (LAs)
- Change in ecological status of rivers and surface water bodies (EA)
- *Change in % of protected landscape managed under ES agreements (£)*
- *Change in total annual values of old and new AE schemes in AONB (£)*
- *% change in condition of SSSIs (£s)*
- *Area of broad and priority habitats within AONB (£s)*
- *Frequency and abundance of farmland bird species at selected holdings (£/vol recorders)*
- *Existence of rare arable plants identified in 2011 survey as potential 'hot spots' (£/vols)*

Historic and Cultural Environment:

- Change in number of heritage assets (EH)
- Change in number of heritage assets 'at risk' (EH)
- *Change in ES area for the management and protection of archaeological features (£)*
- Number of Conservation Areas with Conservation Area Appraisals (District Councils)
- Number of readily accessible HERs (County Councils)
- *Increase in awareness of, and involvement in, cultural environment (£/vols)*

Rural Land Management:

- Changes in farmland type (arable/grazing etc) (Defra)
- Changes in farm numbers / sizes / employment (Defra)
- Changes in numbers of livestock (Defra)
- Changes in total area of woodland (subdivided) (FC)
- Changes in area of woodland managed (including EWGS/felling licences)

(FC)

- *Changes to game and pest management practices (£/vols)*

Rural Economy:

- *Changes in tourism related business performance (£/vols)*
- *Changes in number of businesses taking up green/dark sky/other accreditation (£/vols)*
- *Performance of LEADER funded business projects (£/vols)*
- *Repeat of Economic Survey of AONB (£)*

Planning and Transportation:

- Change in % of Local Authority adopted Plans (Local Plans, Minerals and Waste Plans) or strategies with specific reference to AONB Management Plan/policies (AONB)
- Change in number of relevant/major applications coming to AONB for comment (AONB)
- Availability of Design Guidance (District / Unitary Councils)
- Change in number of parishes/groups of parishes with Neighbourhood Plans (LAs/AONB)
- *Number of applications where, after response from AONB Partnership, positive change has occurred relating to designation purpose (£/vols)*

Viable Rural Communities:

- Change in Parish Facilities and Services (County / Unitary Councils)
- Number of Neighbourhood Plans published (LAs/AONB)
- *Number of community projects applying for external funding / successful (£/vols)*

Awareness and Understanding:

- *Changes in number of survey respondents aware of designation, purpose, 'highly valuing' the CCWWD AONB (£/vols)*
- Change in number of 'followers' / active participants in social media channels (AONB)
- Change in numbers of enquiries for information, presentations, assistance (AONB)
- Number taking up Information Pack for parishes/councillors (AONB)
- Change in the number of stories/features published in local/national media (AONB)

Involvement and Learning:

- Number of volunteers engaged in assisting the AONB (AONB)
- Number of people attending guided walks and events organised by/through AONB (AONB)

Access and Wellbeing:

- *Number/length/condition of countryside access (County Councils/£ vols)*
- *Number of volunteers actively engaged in access work (County Councils/AONB vols)*
- *Satisfaction from visitor / resident surveys (£/vols)*
- *NHS health indicators (vols)*

7 ca d`JubW`bchY`hc`UWt`a dUbnih Y5 CB6 `A UbU` Ya YbhD`Ub`&\$% !&`

(to be completed in published copy)

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 - 5th 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 1st 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;

- 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,'
- Establishing and implementing 'landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning,'
- Establishing procedures for the participation of the public, and local and regional authorities, in defining and implementing landscape policies,
- 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 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: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/home>

The rules for the European Landscape Award can be found at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/landscape-award-alliance>

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 Board is an alliance of 15 local, regional and national organisations which steers the implementation of the AONB Management Plan. The Partnership Board aims to review the AONB governance structure during 2019-20.

The Partnership Board 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 two to three times a year. Its task is to ensure targets in the Management Plan are met.

A biennial **AONB Partnership Forum** is held that brings together the widest range of interested people to discuss and debate topical issues.

Representatives:

As of 1st April 2019, the Partnership includes the Chairman, Nicholas Gosse and one Member and/or one Officer from the seven Local Authorities:

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

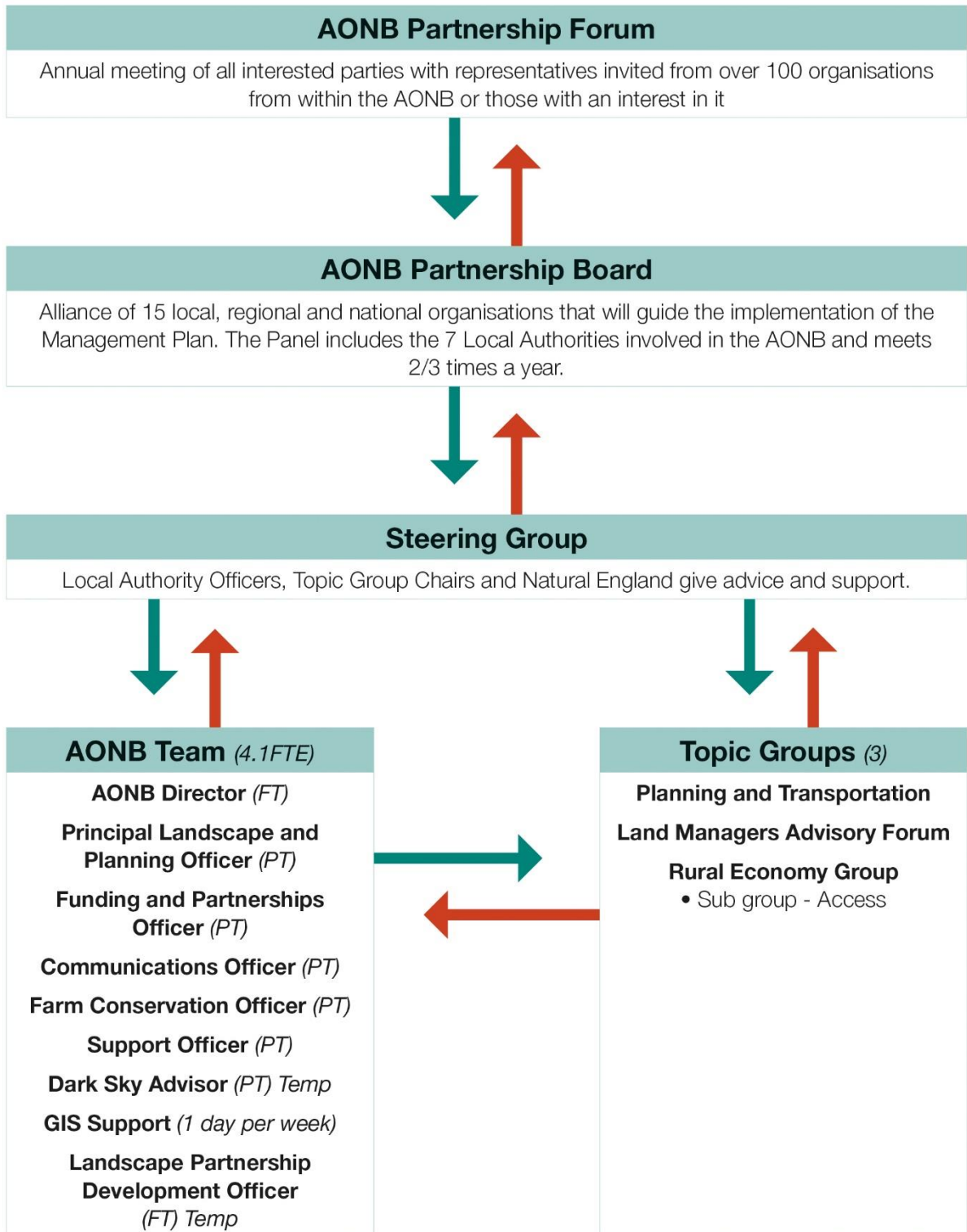
One representative from those organisations with a specialist, regional or national interest in the AONB:

- Natural England
- Forestry Commission
- Campaign to Protect Rural England

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

- Country Land and Business Association
- National Farmers' Union
- Wiltshire Association of Town and Parish Councils
- Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils
- Cranborne Chase Landscape Trust

Partnership Structure



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://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130402204840/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/rural/documents/protected/npaonb-duties-guide.pdf>

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’

Section 85

Duty on Relevant Authorities and those in public office:

1. 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,
2. *‘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’.*
3. 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.
4. 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>

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:

- Historic England
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
- Drinking Water Inspectorate
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Defence Estates
- Health and Primary Care Trusts
- The Police and 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
- EE
- O2
- 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:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>

or <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england>

Appendix 5

Management Plan Review Process

The AONB team were present at the Chalke Valley History Festival during this seven day event. The AONB marquee was a significant draw attracting over 800 festival visitors.

Statutory Consultation

The draft Cranborne Chase AONB Management Plan 2019-2024 went out for the statutory three month formal consultation between 30th August and 30th November 2018. As well as all the statutory bodies and organisations that receive the draft Management Plan, it was also sent to over 2,000 on the AONB mailing list.

Responses were collated 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 whether those comments were taken on board or not, together with the reasons for the decision.

Illustration of this Management Plan

Process: The artwork and informal text for this publication was created by Ali Pretty and Richard White following intensive participatory activity in the Cranborne Chase AONB. Over 4 days Ali and Richard led a series of themed walks bringing together experts, practitioners, community shopkeepers, young people, brewers, visitors, farmers, publicans, retired people and artists. Each walk began with a briefing and concluded with a workshop creating and discussing posters and designs, photographs, sketches and statements. The images, informal text and statement of significance seek to represent this process, informed and inspired by talk from the walks and the thoughts and images shared by social media.

Ali Pretty is a leading specialist in visual arts and design for carnival arts and site specific participatory performances. She has had a massive impact within the world of carnival, with work presented at the London 2012 Paralympics as well as famous carnivals and outdoor events worldwide. Ali is developing her practice as a walking artist and came to this project following the acclaimed Walking Wiltshire's White Horses project.

Richard White is a participatory media producer and digital artist, he is currently developing work around the physicality of walking and remote participation. He has a background in media training and production for the heritage industry and leads the Wiltshire College education/enterprise unit, Creative Wiltshire. Richard worked with Ali on Walking Wiltshire's White Horses, bringing social media and digital arts to the walking and carnival arts.

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.

Directives, Plans, Strategies

INTERNATIONAL

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International importance, especially waterfowl habitat (1971)

www.ramsar.org

Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979) (came into force on 1 June 1982)

www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/bern/default_en.asp

Bonn Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (1979)

www.cms.int/

Rio Declaration of Environment and Development 1992

www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?documentid=78&articleid=1163

The Convention on Biological Diversity (The Rio Convention) (Adopted June 1992,

entered into force December 1993)

www.cbd.int/

The World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg (2002),
Commitments arising from the Johannesburg Summit

www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/basic_info/basicinfo.html

Paris Agreement United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015)

http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php

EUROPEAN

The Birds Directive (Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds) (79/409/EEC)
(Adopted 1979)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm

The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada
Convention) Council of Europe (121) 1985

<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=121&CM=1&CL=ENG>

European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised
1985)

<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/143.htm>

Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) (1991)

<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:1991:375:0001:0008:EN:PDF>

The Habitats Directive (Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild
Fauna and Flora) (Directive 92/43/EC) (1992)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm

The Landfill Directive (99/31/EC) (1999)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/landfill_index.htm

The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) (2000)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) (2001)

<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2001:197:0030:0037:EN:PDF>

The Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) (2002)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/noise/directive.htm>

The Public Access to Environmental Information Directive (2003/4/EC) (2003)

http://ec.europa.eu/legislation_summaries/environment/general_provisions/l28091_en.htm

Aarhus Convention (1998, ratified February 2005)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/>

The Landscape Convention 20 October 2000 (ratified by UK in November 2006)

www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/default_en.asp

Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (June 2006)

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st10/st10917.en06.pdf>

The Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EEC) (2008)

<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:312:0003:0030:EN:PDF>

Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020, European Commission (2011)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_AC_T_part1_v7%5B1%5D.pdf

NATIONAL

Legislation

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga_19790046_en.pdf

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (as amended)

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/pdfs/ukpga_19900009_en.pdf

The Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1994 SI 1381

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1994/1381/contents/made>

Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents

Sustainable Energy Act 2003

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/30/contents

Secure and Sustainable Buildings Act 2004

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/22/contents

Traffic Management Act 2004

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/18/contents

Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents

Climate Change Act 2008

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents

Localism Act 2011

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents

The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 (Habitats Regulation) as amended in 1997, 2000 (in England only) and 2017

[The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 \(S.I. 2017/1012\)](#)

Rights of Way Circular (1/09) Guidance for Local Authorities (Defra 2009)

www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/06/15/pb13553-row-circular-109/

Agricultural Waste Regulations Defra (2006)

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2006/937/contents/made

National Policy Statements for Energy Infrastructure (DECC 2011)

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/consents_planning/nps_en_infra/nps_en_infra.aspx

European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act 2017

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/9/pdfs/ukpga_20170009_en.pdf

National Planning Policy Framework (CLG 2018)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/733637/National_Planning_Policy_Framework_web_accessible_version.pdf

Policies, Strategies and Plans

Securing the Future - UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (Defra 2005)

www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/03/25/securing-the-future-pb10589/

The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland Defra (2007)

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/airquality/strategy/documents/air-qualitystrategy-vol2.pdf>

Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (English Heritage 2008)

www.englishheritage.org.uk/content/publications/publicationsNew/guidelines-standards/conservation-principles-sustainable-management-historic-environment/conservationprinciplespoliciesandguidanceapril08web.pdf

Water for people and the environment - Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales, Environment Agency 2009

<http://a0768b4a8a31e106d8b050dc802554eb38a24458b98ff72d550b.r19.cf3.rackcdn.com/geho0309bpx-e-e.pdf>

The Rural Development Programme 2015-2020 (Defra amended 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/topic/farming-food-grants-payments/rural-grants-payments>

Safeguarding our Soils - A Strategy for England (Defra 2009)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13297-soil-strategy-090910.pdf>

Green Infrastructure Guidance (Natural England 2009)

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35033>

Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network, (Chaired by Professor Sir John Lawton CBE FRS) Defra 2010

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130402170324/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/201009space-for-nature.pdf>

Mainstreaming sustainable development - The Government's vision and what this means in practice (Defra 2011)

<http://sd.defra.gov.uk/documents/mainstreaming-sustainable-development.pdf>

Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (Defra 2011)

www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/08/19/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020/

Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011 (Defra 2011)

www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/06/14/pb13540-waste-review/

Water for Life, the Water White Paper (Defra 2011)

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/legislation/whitepaper/

Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon - Making Sustainable Local Transport Happen (DfT 2011)

www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm79/7996/7996.pdf

The Carbon Plan (DECC 2011)

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/tackling/carbon_plan/carbon_plan.aspx

Strategic Framework for Tourism in England 2010 - 2020 (Visit England 2011)

www.visitengland.org/strategicframework/

Enabling Development and the Conservation of Significant Places English Heritage (2008 -revised 2012)

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/enabling-development-and-the-conservation-of-significant-places/enablingwebv220080915124334.pdf>

The National Heritage Protection Plan (2011 - 2015) (English Heritage 2012)

www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/publications/publicationsNew/nhpp-plan-framework/nhpp-plan-framework.pdf

Local Authority Heritage Assets: Current Issues And Opportunities - Report to English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund - by Green Balance with Grover Lewis Associates Ltd 2012

http://www.helm.org.uk/content/docs/Green_Balance_Final_Report_2012_1_.pdf

Local Authority Heritage Assets: Current Issues And Opportunities - Report to English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund - by *Green Balance* with *Grover Lewis Associates Ltd* 2012

http://www.helm.org.uk/content/docs/Green_Balance_Final_Report_2012_1_.pdf

UK Forestry Standard (Forestry Commission 2011)

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/theukforestrystandard>

UK Bioenergy Strategy (DECC 2012)

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/bioenergy/strategy/strategy.aspx

Annual Energy Statement (DECC 2012)

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/aes/aes.aspx

Creating a sporting habit for life, A new youth sport strategy (DCMS 2012)

www.culture.gov.uk/publications/8761.aspx

'The Natural Choice', the Natural Environment White Paper (Defra 2012)

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/

Healthy lives, healthy people: Improving outcomes and supporting transparency (DH 2012)

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_132358

Independent Panel on Forestry Final report, Defra (2012)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/183095/Independent-Panel-on-Forestry-Final-Report1.pdf

Natural Capital Committee How to do it: a natural capital workbook NCC 2012

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/608852/ncc-natural-capital-workbook.pdf

Realising nature's value: The Final Report of the Ecosystem Markets Task Force Defra (March 2013)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/ecosystem-markets/files/Ecosystem-Markets-Task-Force-Final-Report-.pdf>

Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement - Forestry Commission (Defra 2013)

www.defra.gov.uk/rural/forestry/panel-response/

National Character Area Profile:132 Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs (Natural England 2013)

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5001829523914752?category=587130>

National Character Area Profile:133 Blackmoor Vale and Vale of Wardour (not yet published)

National Character Area Profile:134 Dorset Downs & Cranborne Chase (Natural England 2013)

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5846213517639680?category=587130>

Heritage 2020: strategic priorities for England's historic environment 2015-2020
Historic Environment Forum, March 2015

http://www.heritage2020.net/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Heritage2020-framework-text-2016-06-20_final.pdf

Tourism Action Plan, DCMS (August 2016)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tourism-action-plan>

Conservation 21: Natural England's conservation strategy for the 21st century – Natural England 2016

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/562046/conservation-21.pdf

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment Historic England Advice Note 8, Historic England, December 2016

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/heag036-sustainability-appraisal-strategic-environmental-assessment/>

The Clean Growth Strategy Leading the way to a low carbon future HMSO BEIS (October 2017)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/651916/BEIS_The_Clean_Growth_online_12.10.17.pdf

Fixing our broken housing market Cm Paper 9352 HMSO, DCLG, February 2017

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fixing-our-broken-housing-market>

The Setting of Heritage Assets Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition) Historic England December 2017

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/planning-system/>

A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, HMSO, Defra (2018)

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit, Cmd paper 9577, HMSO, Defra, February 2018

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/684003/future-farming-environment-consult-document.pdf

REGIONAL

State of the natural environment in the South West (NE136) (Natural England 2009)

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/39007?category=118044>

South West Climate Change Action Plan 2008-2010 updated 2009

http://www.swcouncils.gov.uk/media/SWRA/Climate%20Change/Revised_Draft_CC_APv4.8.pdf

Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy & Regional Action Plan for South West England, Environment Agency 2009

<http://a0768b4a8a31e106d8b050dc802554eb38a24458b98ff72d550b.r19.cf3.rackc>

dn.com/geho1209brlb-e-e.pdf

Principles For Success - Guidance For Tourism In South West England, The South West Tourism Alliance 2011

<http://www.swtourismalliance.org.uk/documents/q/category/strategic-work-documents/principles-for-success/634/>

The Historic Environment: A Prospectus for Growth in the South West, South West Historic Environment Forum, English Heritage 2013

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/the-historic-environment-a-prospectus-for-growth-in-the-south-west/sw-hef-historic-environment-prospectus-for-growth.pdf>

Water for Life and livelihoods, River Basin Management Plan South West River Basin District, Environment Agency, updated 2015

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718339/South_West_RBD_Part_1_river_basin_management_plan.pdf

LOCAL

Wiltshire Council

Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment,
Wiltshire County Council (prepared by Land Use consultants 2005)

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/landscapeconservation/wiltshirelcafinafinalreport.htm>

Wiltshire Development Framework: Wiltshire Core Strategy (January 2015)

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshirecorestrategy.htm>

Wiltshire & Swindon Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document 2006 – 2026 (June 2009)

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/minerals-core-strategy-june-2009.pdf>

Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Core Strategy 2006 – 2026
(June 2009)

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/minerals-core-strategy-june-2009.pdf>

Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026,
Wiltshire Council 2011

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/ltp3-strategy.pdf>

People, Places and Promises: Wiltshire Community Plan 2011 - 2026, Wiltshire Assembly, 2011

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/people-places-promises-wiltshire-2011-2026-community-plan.pdf>

Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2008

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/biodiversity-wiltshire-action-plan.pdf>

Landscape Biodiversity Areas - A landscape-scale framework for conservation in Wiltshire and Swindon - Completed in collaboration with the Wiltshire and Swindon Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group (July 2013)

http://www.link2nature.org.uk/uploads/LBAPpages/Landscape_Conservation_Framework_Wiltshire_Swindon2013.pdf

Air Quality Strategy for Wiltshire 2011 - 2015
Wiltshire Council

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/report-draft-air-quality-strategy-for-wiltshire-october-2011.pdf>

Wiltshire Countryside Access Improvement Plan 2015 - 2025 Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/caip-appendices.pdf>

Dorset County Council

Saved policies (5) of the Dorset Minerals and Waste Local Plan, adopted in April 1999

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-county-council/pdfs/planning/dorset-minerals-and-waste-local-plan.pdf>

The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Waste Local Plan, adopted 2006

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-county-council/pdfs/planning/waste-local-plan/adopted-waste-local-plan.pdf>

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-county-council/minerals-planning-policy/mineral-strategy/minerals-strategy.aspx>

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Waste Plan – at advanced stage of preparation and due to be adopted in 2019

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-county-council/waste-planning-policy/new-waste-plan.aspx>

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Site Plan – at advanced stage of preparation and due to be adopted in 2019

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-county-council/minerals-planning-policy/mineral-strategy/preparing-the-mineral-sites-plan.aspx>

The Dorset Landscape Character Assessment, Dorset County Council, updated 2010

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/countryside-coast-parks/countryside-management/biodiversity/pdfs/the-dorset-landscape-character-assessment.pdf>

Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset Local Transport Plan 3, Strategy 2011- 2026,

adopted April 2011

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/travel-dorset/roads-and-driving/road-information/road-and-transport-improvement-schemes/local-transport-plan-3>

Dorset Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) 2011-2021

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/countryside-coast-parks/rights-of-way/pdfs/the-dorset-rights-of-way-improvement-plan-2011-2021.pdf>

Hampshire County Council

Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton, New Forest National Park & South Downs National Park Minerals And Waste Plan 2013 – 2030

[http://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HampshireMineralsWastePlanAD
OPTED.pdf](http://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HampshireMineralsWastePlanADOPTED.pdf)

Hampshire Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2031
Review 2013 Hampshire County Council

[http://documents.hants.gov.uk/transport/HampshireLTPPartALongTermStrategy201
1-2031RevisedApril2013.pdf](http://documents.hants.gov.uk/transport/HampshireLTPPartALongTermStrategy2011-2031RevisedApril2013.pdf)

Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment, Hampshire County Council 2010

[https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/landscape/inte
gratedcharacterassessment](https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/landscape/integratedcharacterassessment)

Countryside Access Plan 2015 – 2025

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/countryside/accessplan>

Somerset County Council

Somerset Minerals Plan adopted February 2015 (2015 – 2030)

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/policies-and-plans/plans/somerset-minerals-plan/>

Somerset Waste Core Strategy adopted February 2013 (2013 – 2028)

[http://www.somerset.gov.uk/policies-and-plans/policies/somerset-waste-core-
strategy/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/policies-and-plans/policies/somerset-waste-core-strategy/)

Somerset Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2026

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/policies-and-plans/policies/transport-policy/>

Somerset's Future Transport Plan 2011 - 2026,
Somerset County Council 2011

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/policies-and-plans/plans/future-transport-plan/>

Somerset Biodiversity Strategies

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/policies-and-plans/strategies/biodiversity/>

East Dorset District Council

Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 - Core Strategy, adopted 2014

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/christchurch/local-development-framework/local-plan-part-1/christchurch-and-east-dorset-local-plan-part-1-core-strategy.aspx>

Saved policies of East Dorset Local Plan 2002

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/east-dorset/east-dorset-district-council-local-plan-2002.aspx>

Mendip District Council

Mendip District Council Local Plan 2006 - 2029

<http://www.mendip.gov.uk/localplan>

The Mendip Open Spaces Study 2012

<http://www.mendip.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=1021&p=0>

Mendip Economic Development Strategy 2013 - 2016

<http://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/2294/Mendip-Economic-Development-Strategy-2013-16>

Mendip District Council Landscape Assessment (prepared by Chris Blandford Associates 1997)

<http://www.mendip.gov.uk/search?q=landscape+assessment&go=Go>

North Dorset District Council

North Dorset Local Plan Part 1, January 2016

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/north-dorset/the-north-dorset-local-plan/the-north-dorset-local-plan.aspx>

Saved policies of North Dorset District-Wide Local Plan to 2011 - Adopted 2003

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/north-dorset/the-north-dorset-local-plan/north-dorset-district-wide-local-plan-2003-saved-policies.aspx>

New Forest District Council

The New Forest District (outside the National Park) Core Strategy adopted on 26 October 2009.

<http://www.newforest.gov.uk/corestrategy>

Local Plan 2016-2036 Part 1: Planning Strategy submitted for examination November 2018 <http://www.newforest.gov.uk/localplan2016>

South Somerset District Council

South Somerset Local Plan 2006-2028

<https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/localplan>

The Landscape of South Somerset, Somerset District Council, 1993

<http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/media/339787/.pdf>

South Somerset Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2008

http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/media/333016/biodiversity_action_plan_2008.pdf

Appendix 7

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012, revised July 2018.

It is noticeable that the 2018 revision retained the instruction to give 'great weight to landscape and scenic beauty' and confirmed AONBs and National Parks have the highest level of protection. It also strengthened the protection of these designated landscapes by adding in 'and enhancing' in relation to landscape and scenic beauty and 'enhancement' in relation to wildlife and cultural heritage.

The following are the sections of the NPPF and the paragraphs 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 national planning policy and statutory requirements.

Achieving sustainable development

There are three interdependent and overarching objectives that need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways:

- a) Economic objective
- b) Social objective
- c) Environmental objective

Para 11: Presumption in favour of sustainable development applies to both plan making and decision-taking. However, **footnote 6** provides exceptions for, inter alia, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks. That means for plan making being in an AONB provides a strong reason for restricting the overall scale, type or distribution of development. For decision making, being in an AONB the application of NPPF policies that protect such areas and their assets provides a clear reasons for refusing the development proposed.

Neighbourhood Plans should support the delivery of strategic policies and can be a reason, subject to four criteria, for outweighing the benefits of housing proposals.

Plan-making

Plans should be positive, deliverable, and unambiguous. Chapter 3 sets out the processes and distinguishes between strategic and non-strategic policies. The scope

of neighbourhood plans, their status, and how they come into force are outlined in paras 28 to 30 and 37.

Decision-making

Chapter 4 focuses on ‘pre-application engagement and front-loading’ to seek to improve the efficiency of the process. It provides guidance on the weight to be given to emerging plans, tailoring planning conditions and obligations, and enforcement.

Delivering a sufficient supply of homes

This is an issue of wide spread concern and **chapter 5** provides detailed guidance. **Para 62** gives attention to affordable housing and **para 63** indicates that within AONBs and certain other rural areas the threshold for the provision of affordable dwellings is 5 units. **Para 77** relates to rural exception sites for affordable housing, and **paras 78 and 79** address the tricky questions of village extensions and isolated homes in the countryside.

Building a strong, competitive economy

Supporting businesses in rural areas is tempered by respect for the countryside and enabling the retention of local services and community facilities.

Ensuring the vitality of town centres

This is particularly relevant to the towns that are on the edge of this AONB, and the focus is on retaining the vitality of the centres of towns in the face of competition from retail and leisure developments outside those centre.

Promoting healthy and safe communities

In addition to encouraging healthy lifestyles, the retention of valued services and facilities, **chapter 8** provides guidance on open space and recreation. The provision of Local Green Spaces is retained.

Promoting sustainable transport

Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making, including the impacts of development on transport networks, opportunities to promote walking, cycling, and public transport, and the environmental impacts of transport. Railways are not mentioned!

Supporting high quality communications

Use of existing structures and capabilities should be encouraged, and ‘equipment should be sympathetically designed and camouflaged where appropriate.’ Applications from communications development should be supported by the necessary evidence to justify the proposals.

Making effective use of land

Chapter 11 tackles the issues of promoting the effective use of land whilst safeguarding and improving the environment and the provision of safe and healthy living conditions. Planning policies and decisions should encourage multiple benefits and take opportunities to achieve net environmental gains [**para 118**]. That includes using suitable brownfield land and the 'airspace' above existing premises for new homes. Different types of housing should be considered, along with the capacity of local infrastructure and an area's prevailing character and setting in securing well-designed, attractive and healthy places. Planning authorities are encouraged to refuse applications which they consider fail to make efficient use of land.

Achieving well-designed places

Chapter 12 considers layout, landscape, and architecture in supporting and creating local character and a strong sense of place. Support is given to design review panels, and great weight should be given to outstanding or innovative designs which promote high levels of sustainability.

Protecting Green Belt land

Government attaches great importance to this designation which aims to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open. Part of the South East Dorset Green Belt overlaps the Cranborne Chase AONB designation. Generally speaking, the construction of new buildings is inappropriate in a Green Belt.

Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

Plans should support the transition to a low carbon future, taking account of flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity, landscapes and rising temperatures. With these criteria in mind, new development should take account of landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping to minimise energy consumption, and avoid areas of flood risk. Integrated Coastal Zone Management should be pursued across boundaries.

Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

Para 170 is clear that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. This can be by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils in a manner commensurate with their statutory status. The intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services, should be recognised. Providing net gains for biodiversity, preventing all types of pollution, and remediating all kinds of degraded land are all encouraged.

Plans should distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national, and locally designated sites whilst taking a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitat and green infrastructure at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries [**para 171**].

Para 172 is particularly relevant to AONBs and National Parks where great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations.

This paragraph is clear that the scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited, and that planning permission should be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances.

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity in plans and decision-making are guided by paras **174 to 177**.

Reducing and mitigating impacts of noise, protecting tranquillity, and limiting light pollution on intrinsically dark landscapes is covered in **para 180**. Air quality guidance is in **para 181**. New development should integrate with existing businesses and community facilities, not the other way round, **para 182**.

Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

Chapter 16 sets out in considerable detail the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, whether designated or not. Significance and harm are considered at length in **paras 193 to 202**, including the great weight to be given to the conservation of a designated heritage asset, and the situations when a development permission may be granted.

Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals

Chapter 17 sets out criteria for ensuring a sufficient supply of minerals is available to meet the country's needs. Mineral working in the Cranborne Chase AONB is mainly small scale and for traditional building stone to maintain historic buildings and to construct a few infill developments.

Annex 1 sets out the time frame for full **implementation** of the revised NPPF following its publication in July 2018.

Annex 2 is a useful **Glossary** of planning terms ranging from affordable housing and ancient of veteran tree to wildlife corridor and windfall sites.

Appendix 8

Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood planning was introduced through the Localism Act 2011. 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

These enable a local group representing a local area, authorised by the Local Planning Authority, to establish 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 take a lead on getting the right type of development for their community, but the plans must comply with the adopted Local Plan or Core Strategy.

Before a Neighbourhood Plan becomes part of the adopted Development Plan it has to undergo a formal consultation process, and Examination by an inspector, and then a local Referendum.

The production of neighbourhood plans is supported by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and they effectively supersede Village Plans and Village Design Statement. Where they have been prepared, those documents are often incorporated into a neighbourhood plan.

Communities need support in putting neighbourhood plans together and they need the help of their local planning authorities to ensure plans contain relevant proposals and meet statutory requirements.

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

Community Infrastructure Levy

Parishes with a made 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 up to 15%.

THE LOCALISM ACT 2011

The Localism Act was introduced in November 2011. The aim is 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 are 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 Act intended to:

- give local authorities the formal legal ability and confidence to get on with the job of responding to what local people want
- cut red tape to enable councillors 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
- make it easier for local people to take over local amenities and keep them part of local life
- ensure that local social enterprises, volunteers and community groups with a bright idea for get a chance to improve local services
- give people a new way to voice their opinions on any local issue
- enable local residents to call local authorities to account
- provide appropriate support and recognition to communities who welcome new development
- enable local authorities to adapt housing provision to local needs
- give local authorities more control over the funding of social housing
- give people who live in social housing new ways of holding their landlords to account, and make it easier for them to move

2019-2024

The Department of Communities and Local government published a Plain English Guide to Localism Act.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/localism-act-2011-overview>

Appendix 9

Climate Change

Background

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. This remains a key issue for this 2019-24 Management Plan.

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 Fifth Assessment Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2014 said that “Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and since the 1950s, many of the observed changes are unprecedented over decades to millennia. The atmosphere and ocean have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, and sea level has risen”.¹ Recent climate changes have had widespread impacts on human and natural systems.

The Committee on Climate Change: Adaptation Sub-committee, states that “If global greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase at their current rate, average temperatures are expected to rise by more than two degrees above preindustrial levels by around the middle of this century, and by four degrees by the end of this century”.² Two degrees is the point above which scientists consider to be dangerous runaway warming, which will result in irreversible changes to the earth and bring major challenges for public wellbeing and the economy.

Although current global temperature rise is only approximately 1°C above pre-industrial levels, there is already evidence from recent events of the early impacts of climate change:

- Seventeen of the 18 warmest years in the 136-year record all have occurred since 2001, with the exception of 1998
- The year 2016 ranks as the warmest on record
- Extensive bush fires and catastrophic flooding
- An all-time record summer melt of the Arctic ice sheet. The Arctic Ocean is now expected to be ice free by summer of 2020 for the first time in 130,000 years.

¹Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report, ipcc

² Managing climate risks to well-being and the economy: Adaptation Sub Committee (ASC) progress report 2014, Committee on Climate Change

In the UK, the most significant early impacts of climate change are likely to be increases in the frequency and severity of extreme weather – heatwaves and flooding, and possibly storms and drought. Around two thousand people across the UK died as a result of the 2003 heatwave. Insured losses from flooding and severe weather events have cost an average £1.5 billion per year over the past twenty years. In 2007 widespread flooding affected 55,000 homes, killed 13 people and cost the economy £3.2 billion. The drought followed by flooding in 2012, which led to a 14% reduction in wheat yield in the UK relative to 2011³ and hundreds of plant and animal species are feeling the onset of spring and summer, on average, 11 days earlier than in the 1970s.

Land and the ecosystem services it provides are already under pressure. Many of these existing pressures will continue to grow in the future. A larger, wealthier population will increase demand for food, timber, energy crops and land for urban development. Climate change will alter the ability of the land to supply ecosystem services and meet these growing demands.

Ecosystems in good condition are more likely to cope with the additional pressures from climate change. The plants and animals that make up ecosystems, and the underlying flows of materials and energy, all depend on factors such as local temperatures, rainfall patterns and soil moisture conditions. This makes them highly sensitive to changes in climate. In recent decades there has been a decline nationally in the abundance and distribution of 60% of species, with nearly a third experiencing a particularly steep decline of more than 50%.⁴

There is a broad consensus on the likely changes to the climate of Southern England, and therefore the Cranborne Chase 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

The UKCP09 climate projections

These future climate projections, known as UK Climate Predictions 09⁵ or UKCP09, are the result of over seven years work by the Met Office's Hadley Centre and over thirty other contributing organisations. Following the historic Paris Agreement on Climate Change in December 2015, the UK Climate Projections will have a major upgrade. UKCP18 will be available in December 2018.

³NFU Key Statistics: monthly update, April 2013

⁴Managing the land in a changing climate: Adaptation Sub Committee (ASC) progress report 2013, Committee on Climate Change (CCC)

⁵UK Climate Predictions <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/24125>

Summary of changes in temperature and precipitation in Wiltshire

The summaries below show the likely changes in temperature and precipitation in Wiltshire for the 2020s under the medium emissions scenario. The figures given represent the 'likely range' (probability levels of 33% to 67%), and changes are relative to the 1961-1990 baseline.

Temperature

- Increase in annual mean temperature by between 1.2 and 1.7°C
- Increase in summer mean temperature by between 1.2 and 2.0°C
- Increase in winter mean temperature by between 1.0 and 1.6°C
- Increase in temperature of warmest summer day by between 0 and 2.7°C

Precipitation

- Annual precipitation stays roughly the same
- Decrease in summer mean precipitation by between 1 and 15%
- Increase in winter mean precipitation by between 2 and 10%
- Increase in precipitation on the wettest winter day by between 2 and 11%

Summary of likely trends in Wiltshire over the period up until the end of the century are summarised below.

Long-term/seasonal changes:

- Increase in annual average temperature
- Hotter, drier summers
- Milder, wetter winters

Extreme events

- More hot days
- Fewer frost days
- More dry spells
- Increase in temperature of warmest day
- Increase in precipitation on wettest day

Impacts on the AONB

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 AONB⁶ 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
- High winds affecting veteran trees and isolated parkland trees
- An increase in popularity of woodland recreation

⁶ Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase (Wiltshire) Character Area, Climate Change Impact Assessment and Response Strategy, Natural England July 2008

- Increased flooding and water logging risk to agricultural land
- An increase in soil erosion in winter, resulting in more nutrients and organic matter being washed into rivers - leading to increased reliance on fertilisers
- Historic buildings and archaeological remains at risk from water damage and flooding
- Deterioration of air quality
- Heat stroke and exhaustion
- Increased risks from invasive species, pests and diseases
- An increase in midges and mosquitoes in wetland areas
- Significant landscape change - it is possible that by the end of the 21st 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 biofuels. 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 people decide to holiday in the UK. All of these factors would affect which flora and fauna can flourish in the area.

Addressing climate change will require the need to both mitigate further climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse 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.

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 fertiliser 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'. There are many reasons, including financial, social and environmental benefits, why we need to adapt to changes that may arise from climate change.

Adaptation responses⁶ that could be employed include:

- Improve the condition of existing habitats
- Maintain and create variety in habitats and the landscape
- Extend the existing habitat network
- Apply learning from past extreme weather events that may occur more frequently as a result of climate change
- Use of habitat creation in strategic locations to reduce the risk of soil erosion
- 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 good husbandry to protect water and soil resources e.g. vegetated buffers around fields, not leaving fields bare in autumn/winter, not over grazing
- Use Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and other methods to intercept and store water at a farm level
- Manage the spread of invasive and undesirable species
- 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
- Assess heritage assets at risk within flood zones and integrate results into the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

⁶Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase (Wiltshire) Character Area, Climate Change Impact Assessment and Response Strategy Natural England July 2008

Monitoring progress

The Adaptation Sub-Committee (ASC) provides advice to the Government on climate change risks and opportunities for the UK, and evaluates progress on adaptation. The ASC's first report to Parliament on the National Adaptation Programme was published in June 2015. The key findings of the ASC's evaluation were:

- There are plans in place and action is being taken to address the risk of future **water scarcity**.
- **Flooding** remains one of the most serious current and future risks to the UK from climate change
- Impacts on health from **higher temperatures** are likely to increase in the future due to climate change combined with a growing, ageing population.
- Key indicators of **environmental quality** continue to move in the wrong direction, putting at risk vital ecosystem goods and services such as clean air, clean water, and carbon storage. Harmful land management practices still persist. Some of the most productive agricultural land in England is at risk of becoming unprofitable within a generation due to soil erosion and the loss of organic carbon. Without further action, farmers may not benefit from the opportunities of longer growing seasons, and the natural environment will be severely harmed by climate change.

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

Legislative drivers

The Climate Change Act 2008 requires a five yearly Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA), to understand the level of risk and opportunities for the UK arising from climate change and setting out the main priorities for adaptation. The first CCRA Evidence Report (2012) indicated that the greatest need for early adaptation action (i.e. within the next 5 years) is in the following areas:

- Flooding
- Impacts on natural capital and agriculture
- Managing water scarcity
- Overheating of buildings and infrastructure in the urban environment
- Health risks associated with heatwaves and other risks that may affect the NHS Opportunities for the UK economy

National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice guidance - addressing climate change is one of the core land use planning principles which the National Planning Policy Framework expects to underpin both plan-making and decision-taking.

What are the councils doing?

Dorset

In Dorset there has, and continues to be significant activity to mitigate climate change which is coordinated 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) (<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/countryside-coast-parks/countryside-management/green-dorset/dorsets-renewable-energy-strategy.aspx>) which sets out how to realise the renewable heat and electricity potential in the county
- The Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026 (2011) (<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/roads-and-pavements/transport-planning/local-transport-plan/view-the-local-transport-plan.aspx>) provides the strategic framework for delivering sustainable transport locally.

Wiltshire

The **Wiltshire Core Strategy 2015 -2026** <https://pages.wiltshire.gov.uk/adopted-local-plan-jan16-low-res.pdf> identifies addressing climate change as a key strategic objective, including policies which will deliver; sustainable growth, build resilient communities, provide a network of green infrastructure, ensure more sustainable transport and reduce the risk of flooding.

Wiltshire Council's Energy Change and Opportunity Strategy 2011-2020 www.wiltshire.gov.uk/downloads/4321 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.

Carbon reduction

In July 2010 Cabinet set a carbon reduction strategy to make Hampshire County Council a carbon neutral authority by 2050. In the short term, from 2010-2015, a 20% reduction in carbon emissions has been set. By 2025, carbon emissions will reduce by a further 40%, leading to carbon neutrality by 2050

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/carbonmanagement/carbon-plan.htm>

Hampshire County Council's Energy Strategy

Hampshire County Council agreed an Energy Strategy at a meeting of Cabinet on 29 October 2012.

The Energy Strategy [Energy Strategy](#) sets out the County Council's response to the three key energy risks to Hampshire:

- Security of supply
- Affordability
- Carbon emissions

Hampshire County Council's Energy Strategy Action Plan 2014 -2-18

The Executive Member for Income and Capital Receipts approved the implementation of the Energy Strategy Action Plan on 18 March 2014. The Plan spans a four year period and progress will be reviewed in 2018. The purpose of the Plan is to deliver high quality and cost effective projects which will reduce the energy consumption and carbon footprint of Hampshire County Council and the wider community and establish the foundation for further progress in future years.

[Energy Strategy Action Plan](#)

[Energy Strategy Action Plan - Appendix 1](#)

Appendix 10

Dark Night Skies

The Cranborne Chase 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. The Council for the Protection of Rural England recently produced 'Night Blight' maps, produced using satellite imaging, showing the areas both most and least affected by light pollution in England. The AONB is shown to have the darkest skies in southern England, but the increasing pressure from light pollution and development means we cannot be complacent.

Chapter 11 of this Management Plan sets out the AONB's commitments to preserving our dark night skies, and our achievements and objectives in this regard.

We are aiming for formal recognition of the quality of our night skies through our application for International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR) status, a prestigious award made by the International Dark-sky Association (IDA)¹. More generally, we are mindful that light pollution in the UK (and globally) is increasingly an issue. It affects not just our view of the night skies, but also human health, wildlife, and energy costs. For example, the circadian rhythms of humans and wildlife are known through research to be disturbed by artificial light at night (ALAN). This and other effects of ALAN have a bearing on AONB policies contained within the Management Plan, in particular the following:

Outstanding Landscapes

- Landscape
- Natural Environment

Living and Working Landscapes

- Planning and Transport

Special Landscapes to Enjoy

- Wellbeing, Involvement and Learning

In practical terms, the commitment to preserving and enhancing our dark night skies, carries the following specific implications and required actions to support the objectives and policies set out in Chapter 11. These are outcomes that we aim to achieve within the lifetime of this Management Plan (2019 to 2024). They require partnership working, in particular with our partner local planning authorities.

Action	Requirements	Reference documentation
Work with local authorities to embed good practice lighting	All planning decisions with potential implications for light pollution should reference the requirements of the Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP), the AONB's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light (ILP)

<p>conditions in planning decisions</p>	<p>Position Statement and Good Practice Note, and the Commission for Dark Skies Report on Lighting. The ILP note sets out lighting design recommendations for five different environmental zones (from E0 – protected, to E4 - urban). The AONB is classified as E1 (natural), signifying an intrinsically dark landscape. The different zones are described below².</p> <p>Good practice lighting conditions on all planning permissions should include the requirement of explicit approval by the planning authority. In practice, this means that no external lights should be erected or installed in, or within the setting of, the AONB unless:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (generally ≤ 40W / 3000K); 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. <p>At its meeting on 7th February 2008, the AONB Partnership Panel endorsed the following:</p> <p>“The Partnership Panel encourages all Local Authorities to make use of the Statement [AONB Position Statement 1: Light Pollution] when dealing with</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AONB Position Statement 1: Light Pollution • AONB Good Practice Note 7: Good External Lighting • Commission for Dark Skies: Lighting Types, Qualities and Impacts
---	---	---

	matters concerning lighting within the AONB.	
Actively work with parish and town councils and businesses to promote good practice lighting	<p>We will pursue the Dark Sky Friendly Parish and Accreditation schemes irrespective of whether we attain IDSR status. We will particularly consider engagement with town councils on the edge of or just outside the AONB boundary, who are most impacted by potential larger-scale developments.</p> <p>In particular, though education and targeted campaigns, there is a need to engage with local communities to promote good quality lighting design. This includes encouraging the use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully shielded and/or dipped external lights and floodlights, that direct illumination where it is needed • Lights of appropriate lumens (≤ 500) or colour temperature ($\leq 3000K$) • Motion sensors or timed ('curfew') lighting. <p>These measures not only promote reduction of light pollution, but also prevent energy wastage (and therefore decrease energy costs).</p>	
Work with other UK 'Dark Sky Places' and related organisations to improve awareness and understanding across the country of the need to reduce light pollution	The AONB is already actively participating in a newly established partnership of IDA accredited reserves and those seeking to apply. This involves sharing of ideas, promotional opportunities, and experience.	
Promoting dark skies education and tourism	The AONB will continue a programme of events and engagement with residents and visitors, as well as schools and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.chasingstars.org.uk • http://darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/2015

	<p>other educational establishments. The Chasing Stars website will continue to be promoted as our main source of information and news on dark skies and light pollution.</p> <p>The benefits for tourism have been noted in areas that have Dark Sky status (either as a Dark Sky Reserve, or Discovery site). The Annual Report from Snowdonia National Park describes astrotourism initiatives that have happened since achieving Dark Sky Reserve, as an example.</p>	<p>/12/Snowdonia-IDSR-2017-Annual-Report.pdf</p>
--	---	--

¹Application for International Dark Sky Reserve status

The AONB is aiming to apply for International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSr) status, an award made by the International Dark-sky Association (IDA). An IDSr protects an area possessing exceptional starry nights and nocturnal environment for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural, heritage and/or public enjoyment. Reserves consist of a core area meeting minimum criteria for sky quality and natural darkness, and a peripheral area that supports dark sky preservation in the core. Formation of reserves is through partnerships that recognize the value of the natural night time environment through regulations and long-term planning.

The IDA (<http://darksky.org/>) is based in the USA. Its mission is to preserve and protect the night-time environment and our heritage of dark skies through environmentally responsible outdoor lighting. In the UK, The Commission for Dark Skies (<https://www.britastro.org/dark-skies/>), a group within the British Astronomical Association, has similar aims, and the AONB works closely with both organisations.

²Environmental Zones

Zone	Surrounding	Lighting Environment	Examples
E0	Protected	Dark	UNESCO Starlight Reserves, IDA Dark Sky Parks
E1	Natural	Intrinsically dark	National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty etc
E2	Rural	Low district brightness	Village or relatively dark outer suburban locations
E3	Suburban	Medium district brightness	Small town centres or suburban locations
E4	Urban	High district brightness	Town/city centres with high levels of night-time activity

Source: *Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light GN01:2011*

References

Council for the Protection of Rural England: England's Light Pollution and Dark Skies (the 'Night Blight' maps). < <https://www.nightblight.cpre.org.uk/maps/>>

Chasing Stars web site: www.chasingstars.org.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.”

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.

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.

The Natural Capital Committee (NCC) is an independent advisory committee.

It provides advice to the government on the sustainable use of natural capital - that is, our natural assets including forests, rivers, land, minerals and oceans.

The committee’s broad remit also covers the benefits we derive from natural assets, such as food, recreation, clean water, hazard protection and clean air.

The second term of the committee runs from 2016 to 2020. Professor Dieter Helm continues to chair the committee, which will focus primarily on helping the government develop its 25 year environment plan. 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.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/natural-capital-committee>

Appendix 12

Green Infrastructure (GI)

Green Infrastructure (GI) is a network of high quality green and blue spaces and other environmental features working at a landscape scale. 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 for local communities. Green Infrastructure does not have to be publically accessible and 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. The overarching, cross-cutting nature of GI encompasses the access and wellbeing agenda as 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, being predominantly undeveloped countryside, is a significant element in the nation's high level GI. Furthermore it has an extensive GI network of its own 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;

2019-2024

- Parks and green spaces within and on the edge of the AONB;
- 'Green' corridor 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 based on the inter-relationships of natural resources, a recognition that they comprise interconnected biological, geological, and meteorological systems, and a need for humans to recognise their place in this grand scheme of things. The systems approach 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).

At a high, strategic, level government is focussing on Natural Capital, see Appendix 11, for the countryside as a whole. Natural Capital is a key element in the government's 25 year Environment Plan. Probably due to its name, and being promoted by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, ecosystem approaches seem more relevant to wildlife conservation and the management of nature reserves.

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. It 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

Policy Influence

The implementation of the 109 plan policies will have multiple effects across a wide range of topics.

Areas of Influence

Policies	Landscape	Natural Environment	Historic and Cultural Environment	Dark Night Skies	Rural Land Management	Planning and Transportation	Sustaining Rural Communities	Awareness and Understanding	Wellbeing. Involvement and Learning	The AONB Partnership
LAN 1										
LAN 2										
LAN 3										
LAN 4										
LAN 5										
LAN 6										
LAN 7										
LAN 8										
NE 1										
NE 2										
NE 3										
NE 4										
NE 5										
NE 6										
NE 7										
NE 8										
HE 1										
HE 2										
HE 3										
HE 4										

Policies	Landscape	Natural Environment	Historic and Cultural Environment	Dark Night Skies	Rural Land Management	Planning and Transportation	Sustaining Rural Communities	Awareness and Understanding	Wellbeing. Involvement and Learning	The AONB Partnership
HE 5										
HE 6										
HE 7										
HE 8										
HE 9										
DNS 1										
DNS 2										
DNS 3										
DNS 4										
DNS 5										
DNS 6										
DNS 7										
RLM 1										
RLM 2										
RLM 3										
RLM 4										
RLM 5										
RLM 6										
RLM 7										
PT 1										
PT 2										
PT 3										
PT 4										
PT 5										
PT 6										

Policies	Landscape	Natural Environment	Historic and Cultural Environment	Dark Night Skies	Rural Land Management	Planning and Transportation	Sustaining Rural Communities	Awareness and Understanding	Wellbeing. Involvement and Learning	The AONB Partnership
PT 7										
PT 8										
PT 9										
PT 10										
PT 11										
PT 12										
PT 13										
PT 14										
PT 15										
PT 16										
PT 17										
PT 18										
PT 19										
PT 20										
PT 21										
PT 22										
PT 23										
PT 24										
PT 25										
PT 26										
PT 27										
PT 28										
PT 29										
SRC 1										
SRC 2										

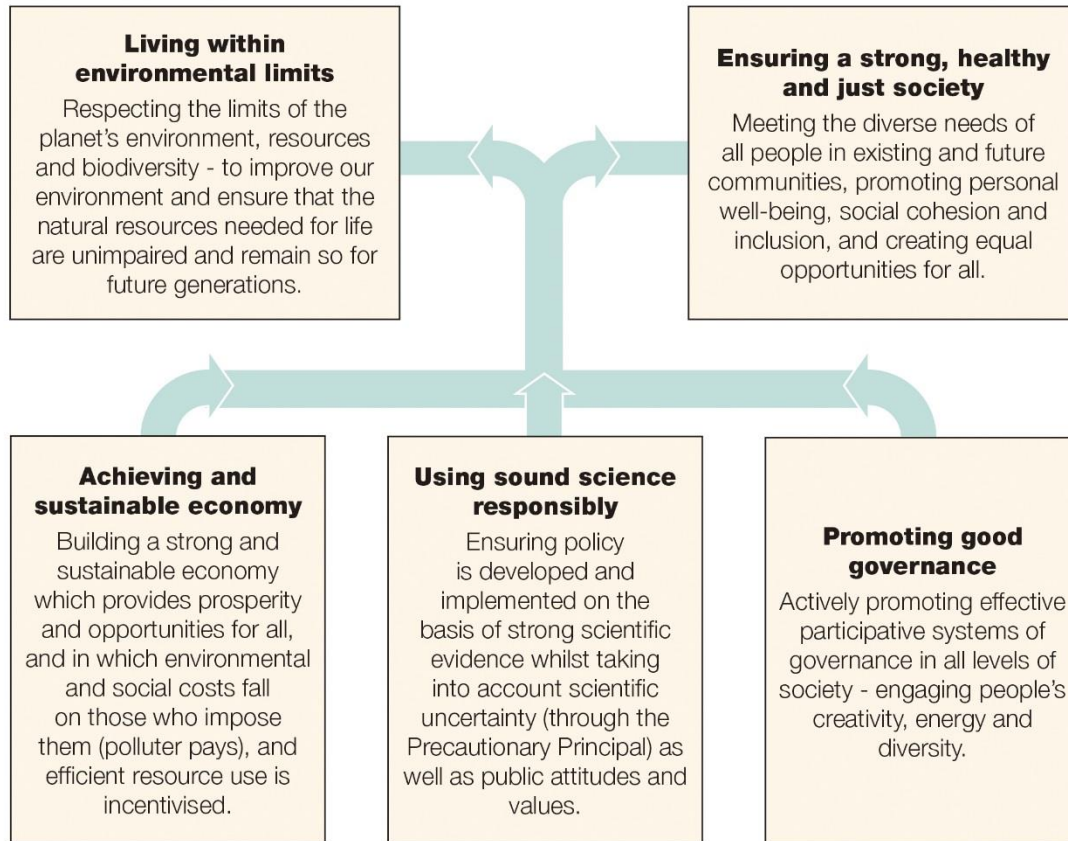
Policies	Landscape	Natural Environment	Historic and Cultural Environment	Dark Night Skies	Rural Land Management	Planning and Transportation	Sustaining Rural Communities	Awareness and Understanding	Wellbeing. Involvement and Learning	The AONB Partnership
SRC 3										
SRC 4										
SRC 5										
SRC 6										
SRC 7										
SRC 8										
SRC 9										
SRC 10										
SRC 11										
AU 1										
AU 2										
AU 3										
AU 4										
AU5										
AU6										
AU7										
WIL 1										
WIL 2										
WIL3										
WIL4										
WIL 5										
WIL 6										
WIL 7										
WIL 8										
P 1										

Policies	Landscape	Natural Environment	Historic and Cultural Environment	Dark Night Skies	Rural Land Management	Planning and Transportation	Sustaining Rural Communities	Awareness and Understanding	Wellbeing. Involvement and Learning	The AONB Partnership
P 2										
P 3										
P 4										
F 1										
F 2										
F 3										
F 4										
F 5										
F 6										
I 1										
1 2										
1 3										
1 4										
1 5										

Appendix 15

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://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/the_principles.html



Cranborne Chase AONB
Farm Conservation Project

Appendix 16

Cranborne Chase Farm Conservation Project

Project Adviser, Tracy Adams, was employed by the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in July 2009 as project adviser of the South Wiltshire Farmland Bird Initiative (SWFBI). The project ran until 2015 and involved working closely with farmers to stabilise and increase the numbers of farmland birds including tree sparrow and lapwing and rare arable plants such as prickly poppy and cornflower.

Following a successful bid to the Wessex Water Biodiversity Partner's Programme, the Farmland Bird Project broadened its horizons to become the Cranborne Chase Farm Conservation Project. The intention was to maintain and build on the relationships made during the six years where 147 farms received one to one advice covering an area of 24,000ha. Wessex Water fund the post one day a week, with AONB funding for the remaining two days.

About the project

The Farm Conservation Project involves bringing together groups of neighbouring farmers in groups or 'clusters' to work more effectively to undertake outcome –focused landscape-scale conservation of soil, water and biodiversity, and potentially much more. This environmental work is at a much larger scale than previously, when it focused on individual farms. There is opportunity for expert input from outside, but essentially the farmers decide what will happen on their land and then they carry out the work.

This gives total ownership of the environmental improvements on the farm to the farmer. Training forms an important part of the approach as does wildlife surveying to enable progress to be monitored. Groups have a facilitator who runs each cluster, either paid for by the farmers themselves or through the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) Facilitation Fund which offered grants until 2020 in years 2015-2017.

The experience of pilot clusters trialled by the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) has been highly positive and at the time of writing this plan, there are currently over 100 farmer groups across England involving 1200 farmers and covering half a million hectares.

Farmer groups in the AONB

In Cranborne Chase AONB there are three established farmer clusters, (priorities listed below), one new cluster and a fourth in the pipeline.

Priorities	Martin Down Farmer Cluster 2016	Allenford 2013	Chalke Valley 2015
	3600ha 11 members	6700ha 10 members	20,000ha 20 members
<i>conservation action now</i>			
Grey Partridge	✓	✓	✓
Turtle Dove	✓	✓	✓
Corn Bunting	✓	✓	✓
Barn Owl	✓	✓	
<i>survey prior to action</i>			
Lapwing	✓	✓	
Woodcock (br.)	✓	✓	
Hedgehog	✓	✓	✓
Harvest Mouse	✓	✓	✓
Adder	✓	✓	
Dark Green Fritillary Duke of Burgundy Small Blue	✓	✓	✓
Bumblebees	✓	✓	✓
Orchids	✓		
Arable Plants	✓	✓	✓
Soil & earthworms	✓	✓	✓
<i>mapping</i>			
Chalk Grassland	✓	✓	✓
Habitat links	✓		✓
Arable habitats			✓

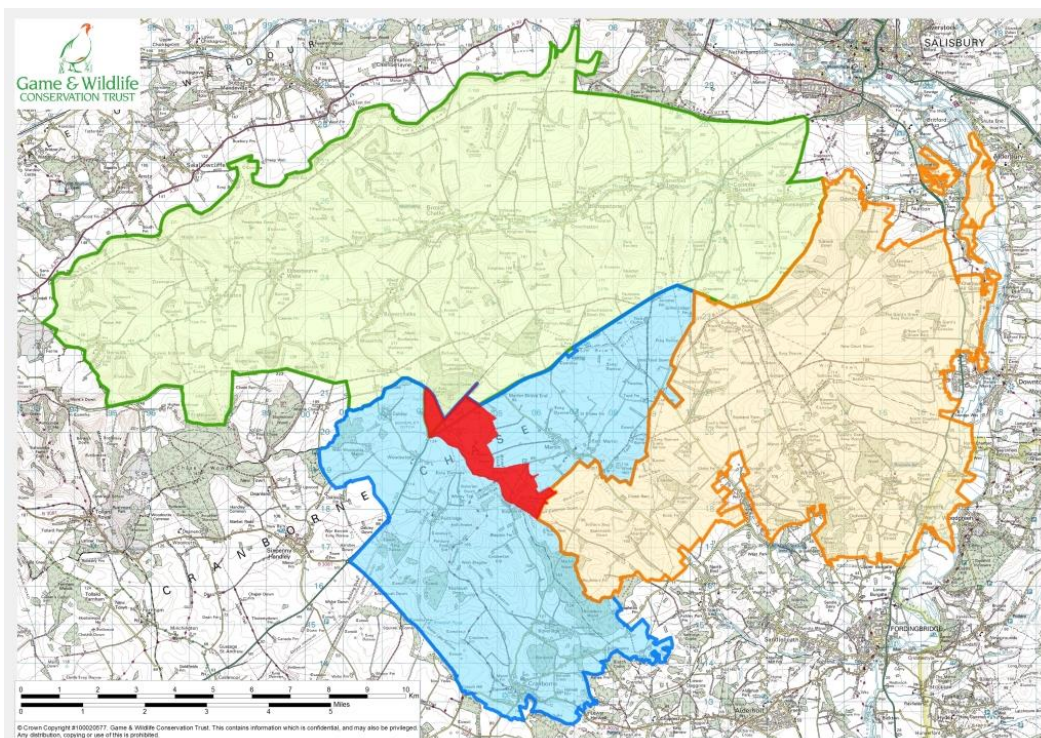
The **Allenford Cluster** was set up by the GWCT in 2013 as one of five pilot groups nationally, part-funded by Natural England. Remaining funding came from a private source and members pay a subscription of £1/ha/year.

The **Chalke Valley Cluster** was set up by the AONB in late 2015 with considerable assistance from independent adviser Simon Smart who successfully applied for CSS facilitation funding in 2016.

The **Martin Down Farmer Cluster** formed in late 2016 and members pay a subscription similar to that of Allenford towards survey costs, equipment and training. They have a full time facilitator employed by GWCT with some NE funding. Considerable time has been spent on baseline surveys during 2017.

All the above form a 'super cluster' surrounding and bordering Martin Down National Nature Reserve (NNR), a Site of Special Scientific Interest (figure 1). They are a successful demonstration of how the objectives of Professor Sir John Lawton's 2010 report '*Making Space for Nature*' could work in the wider countryside meeting his key aim of achieving "bigger, better and joined" wildlife habitats.

Figure 1: Map showing Farmer Clusters (Allenford in orange, Chalke Valley in green and Martin Down in blue) surrounding Martin Down NNR in the centre (red)



The **Wylve Valley Farm Cluster** held its first meeting in 2018. Currently there are 19 farmers signed up representing 13 farm holdings covering an area of 8000ha from Sutton Veny in the north west to Steeple Langford in the east. This group is being funded by member subscriptions of £1/ha/year and are looking for sponsorship. The

AONB is providing 5 days IT support to help with baseline GIS mapping plus some time from the Farm Conservation Adviser.

How can the Cranborne Chase Farm Conservation Project help you?

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

- Forming a new farmer group or joining an existing one.
- New Countryside Stewardship Scheme agreements to provide habitat for farmland birds and conditions for arable plants.
- Management of arable options in existing stewardship agreements.
- Adapting farming methods for better bird and plant habitats and improving soil structure and reducing diffuse pollution without compromising farm profitability.

Appendix 17

Designation by Historic England

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

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).

Designation identifies a site as being architecturally or historically important and obviously influences decisions and actions that may impact on its future.

The NPPF provides guidance on the protection and enhancement of the designated and undesignated heritage assets when development is proposed.

Historic England has a suite of guidance documents for owners and consultants that provide detailed advice on the conservation and management of heritage assets.

Historic sites that are owned by the nation are now maintained and managed by Historic England, which has charity status.

Appendix 18

EU LEADER Funding



LEADER is a community-led European funding programme that supports rural community development. The planning, decision making and implementation is done at a local level, carried out by a Local Action Group (LAG). The LAG is made up of private, public and community sector volunteers with a wide range of experience and knowledge of local rural issues.

It aims to address lagging economic performance, and the resultant social and environmental problems that this causes, in rural areas. Businesses and not for profit groups can identify and develop projects to address these issues and apply for grant funding to support them.

This round of funds (November 2015 – September 2019) is strongly focused on economic growth and jobs. Each LAG decided which projects it would fund in its area, based on its Local Development Strategy, but all projects had to support one or more of the 6 national LEADER priorities. These are to:

1. Support to increase farm productivity
2. Support for micro and small business and farm diversification
3. Support for rural tourism
4. Provision of rural services
5. Support for cultural and heritage activity
6. Support for increasing forestry productivity

The Cranborne Chase AONB had full LEADER coverage by three Local Action Groups, namely:

- **The Heart of Wessex (HoW) LAG** was a partnership between the Cranborne Chase (AONB), Wiltshire Council, South Somerset District Council, Frome Town Council and Wincanton Community Venture (The Balsam Centre). The HoW covered the Wiltshire part of the AONB.
- **The Northern Dorset LAG** – which covered North Dorset, East Dorset, West Dorset and Christchurch Council areas. Northern Dorset LAG covered the North and East Dorset areas of the AONB.
- **The New Forest LEADER** area is based around the New Forest National Park and includes the rural areas of New Forest District Council (NFDC) together with a number of adjacent rural parts of Wiltshire Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Burton Parish, part of Christchurch Borough Council. The New Forest LAG covered the Hampshire part of the AONB

The 15 projects in the AONB funded through this round of LEADER totalled £615k and are listed below

East Knoyle Community Shop Association Ltd, known locally as Wrens Shop, were awarded **£23,170.78** of LEADER grant funding to help finance an extension to the existing shop, install a new chiller unit and make internal improvements including new shelving units and counters.

Nunton Farm received a grant of **£17,167.67** to support the installation of a new Milk Vending Machine. The aim of this project is to sell whole milk produced at Nunton Farm through a milk vending machine at the farm gate. Milk vending machines are a relatively recent innovation that enable farms to sell milk directly to the consumer thus incurring minimal processing costs.

Church Farm Dairy based in Semley were the recipients of a LEADER grant totalling **£20,872.33** to support their project "Church Farm Dairy Milk". The grant will be used to assist costs for building works, a pasteuriser, bulk tank, bottle dispenser and vending machine. Again, consumers will be able to purchase their milk directly from the vending machine located on the farm.

T.K. Jeans & Sons based in Broad Chalke are another farm taking advantage of new drilling technology. T.K. Jeans & Sons run a mixed 780 hectare, arable and dairy family farming business in the Cranborne Chase AONB and received a grant of **£28,144.80** at a 40% grant intervention rate to purchase a Horsch Sprinter 6ST; a one pass, low disturbance seed drill. The drill will allow the farm to take a longer term, more sustainable approach to the soil health and therefore the productivity of the family farm so that it can still be a viable business for future generations.

Downlands Tree Surgery are tree surgeons in Wiltshire who have been looking after trees at residential and commercial properties since 1997. Their work involves all types of felling, surgery works, stump removal and hedge maintenance. They applied to the Heart of Wessex LAG for a grant of **£19,080** to aid the purchase of a specialist Flail Mower capable of cutting various types of tall grass, reeds, brambles and invasive woody scrub

Callen-Lenz Associates Ltd specialises in the design, development and provision of unmanned autonomous system technology for commercial use by unmanned air vehicle (UAV) manufacturers and operators. They applied to the Heart of Wessex for grant funding towards the cost of equipping a new workshop with specialised rapid prototyping and manufacturing machines and purchasing a test support van which in turn will make the business more competitive, enabling it to create two new engineering jobs. The company based in Chilmark were successfully awarded a grant of **£22,556.02** at a 40% grant intervention rate.

Dineley Farming Company Ltd started as a farming partnership with 300 ewes 20 years ago and is located in Berwick St John. In 2011 it became a limited company and stock numbers have since steadily increased to 3000 ewes and 1000 replacements. The farm is 728 hectares and is a combination of natural chalk

downland and a rotational arable forage system. 200 hectares is contracted out to an arable contractor on a rotational basis with the sheep. Dineley Farming applied to the Heart of Wessex for a LEADER grant to aid the purchase of a 5 way mobile sheep autodrafter and were successfully granted **£5,683.20** at a 40% intervention rate.

Rookhaye Estate in Bowerchalke have successfully been awarded a LEADER grant of **£10,351.60** to support the purchase and installation of an auto identification, activity and rumination herd management system to be added to existing farm equipment. This in turn will improve the welfare and productivity of the dairy herd. Rookhaye Estate is a family farming business with three enterprises; dairy farming, arable farming and property rentals.

Discover Adventure Ltd based in Coombe Bissett organises charity fundraising challenges, school expeditions and company team building challenges. They applied to the Heart of Wessex LAG for LEADER funding to refurbish a former garage workshop to provide a workshop and store for business vehicles and equipment. The business was successfully awarded the full grant request of **£17,716** at a 40% grant intervention rate.

Time Traveller App on the Chase received a **£132K** grant to develop a phone and tablet app which is expected to greatly increase the number of visitors to the Shaftesbury area.

The Springhead Trust Ltd of Fontmell Magna were granted **£57,557** for to improve visitor facilities at Springhead. This will extend the revenue-generating season: providing quality accommodation for many new and repeat day and residential visitors; access to a unique painted room; and improved facilities for performances staged in a Rotunda Open Air Theatre. This project will create 2 new full time jobs.

Launceston Farm, Tarrant Launceston received **£46K** to purchase a System Cameleon Drill - innovative robotic machinery

Manor Farm, Tarrant Monkton were granted **£42K** grant to purchase innovative farm equipment - Strip-till drill

Cranborne Chase Cider were awarded **£21K** grant to extend their processing facility

Wessex Internet Ltd a received a **£140K** grant to build new office and data centre

James Selby Joinery, Farnham received a grant of **£8,800** to purchase new equipment to expand a joinery business

Martin Community Shop were awarded **£3,014** for an expansion to the shop

At the time of writing this Management Plan it is unclear what, if anything, will replace LEADER funding in the future.

Appendix 19

Planning Protocol for the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

This is the protocol agreed in 2005 and 2006; it should, of course, be read in the context of current planning terminology where we no longer have Structure Plans and Development Frameworks but do have Core Strategies, Local Plans, and the National Planning Policy Framework.

West Wiltshire and Salisbury Districts transferred to Wiltshire Council in 2009, and East Dorset and North Dorset Districts transferred to Dorset Council in 2019.

1 Purpose

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

2 Background

The Cranborne Chase 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.

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.

4 The Planning Authority's role

The planning authority will;

- 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.
- Make available a copy of the weekly planning application list for the AONB Manager within 7 days of publication.
- Send a standard consultation to the AONB Manager inviting comments on all major¹ 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.
- Where appropriate, will consult the AONB team during pre-application discussions or in the preparation of development briefs.
- 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.

5 The AONB Partnership's role

The AONB Partnership will;

¹ 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Where appropriate, will provide contributions towards Planning Appeals, where there are significant planning issues for the AONB.
- Operate a scheme of delegation for providing comments on planning matters as set out in Appendix A2.
- 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.

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 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.

7 Agreement

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

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. **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.
7. 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.
8. **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.
9. **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
10. 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.

11. **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
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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."*
16. 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

17. Established policy consultation procedures appear to be working effectively.
18. 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

19. **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
20. 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
21. **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
22. Applications sent to the AONB could identify the matters where the Case Officer would most appreciate information, advice, and [if appropriate] recommendations.
23. 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.
24. 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

25. 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.

26. **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

Position Statements; Fact Sheets & Good Practice Notes

Position Statements

The AONB positions statements set out the Partnership's 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
Position Statement 2	Historic Parks & Gardens
Position Statement 3	Relevance of the Setting for AONB
Position Statement 4	Historic Landscape Characterisation
Position Statement 5	Renewable Energy
Position Statement 6	Good enough to approve in an AONB
Position Statement 7	Affordable Parking
Position Statement 8	Farm Diversification
Position Statement 9	Field scale photovoltaic panels
Position Statement 10	Housing within the CCAONB

Fact Sheets & Good Practice Notes

The AONB fact sheets and good practice notes provide information on topics of relevance to landscape and planning within the AONB. These documents provide information on Section 85 duties, the New Agricultural Buildings, the European Landscape Convention, and Historic Landscape Characterisation.

Fact Sheet 1	Section 85 Factsheet & Good Practice
Fact Sheet 2	Local Plan, LDF & Good Practice
Fact Sheet 3	European Landscape Convention Fact Sheet & Good Practice
Fact Sheet 4	Historic Landscape Characterisation Fact Sheet & Good Practice
Good Practice 6	Colour and Integrating Developments into the Landscape
Good Practice 7	Good External Lighting
Good Practice 7a	Recommendations for Dark-Sky compliant lighting on new builds & refurbishments - a Developers' Guide
Good Practice 7b	Examples of Dark-Sky compliant lighting units
Good Practice 8	New Agricultural Buildings
Good Practice 9	Using Landscape Character Assessments in Neighbourhood Planning

Plus:

Helping you to keep our AONB beautiful – an illustrated overview of the documents produced by the AONB Partnership.

Appendix 21

Protection of the Designated Landscape

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

- The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited.
- Every 'major' development proposal should be accompanied by at least 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 Appraisal as a minimum. Where the proposed development is situated within or in proximity to this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it must be explicitly 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:
 - avoided; or
 - where an adverse impact cannot be avoided, the impact will be adequately mitigated; or
 - where adverse impacts cannot be avoided or adequately mitigated, compensatory environmental enhancements or other compensation 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 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.

Any 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.

At its meeting on 26th October 2016 the Partnership for the Cranborne Chase AONB agreed 'the **principle** that the nation's finest landscapes, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty, are not places for the importation of waste for treatment, processing, or disposal.'

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, namely conserving and enhancing natural beauty.

Appendix 22

Major Development

This definition, drawn from the Planning Portal in November 2013, relates closely to the Planning Protocol between this AONB and its Partner Local Planning Authorities.

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/planninginspectorate/majorapplications>

‘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 dwelling houses where:
 - i. the number of dwelling houses 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.

The revised NPPF July 2018 includes a similar definition of Major Development, and provided a reference to the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.

However, footnote 55 of the NPPF states that in relation to National Parks, AONBs, and Heritage Coasts ‘whether a proposal is ‘major development’ is a matter for the decision maker, taking into account its nature, scale and setting, and whether it could have a significant adverse impact on the purposes for which the area has been designated or defined.’

There is, therefore, the implication that development of a smaller scale than that defined above can be considered ‘major’ in the sensitive landscapes of National Parks, AONBs, and Heritage Coasts.

Appendix 23

Permitted Development

The Town and Country Planning Act (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 allows a range of developments, usually of a defined scale and within less sensitive locations, without the need to seek formal planning permission. The Order also covers changes between Use Classes. These 'permitted development rights' are more restricted in a

- Conservation Area
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- World Heritage Site
- National Park or the Broads

For example, the permitted development right to install up to 1 Megawatt of solar photovoltaic panels on roofs of non-domestic buildings does not apply in those areas.

A Local Planning Authority can remove some of these rights by issuing an 'Article 4 direction', which means a planning application needs to be submitted. These Article 4 directions are made when the character of an area of acknowledged importance would be threatened.

The 2015 Order also provides for some changes of use, mainly to residential, for a limited period of time from a limited range of Use Classes.

There are also permitted development rights for agricultural buildings, again within defined sizes and locations, and also time-limited rights for conversions of agricultural buildings in less sensitive locations.

Whilst the laudable aim of permitted development rights is to reduce the burden of planning applications the variety of restrictions on the range of rights means that virtually every situation needs to be carefully checked to ensure the proposed development really is permitted and that any requirements, such as notifying that the work has been completed, are complied with.

Reference can be made to the Planning Portal

https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200187/your_responsibilities/37/planning_permission/2

and / or

Government's Planning Practice Guidance – when is permission required

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/when-is-permission-required#What-are-permitted-development-rights>

Some changes between categories within the Use Classes benefit from permitted development rights but, again, they may be subject to restrictions in sensitive areas.

https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200130/common_projects/9/change_of_use/2

From	To
<p>A1 (shops)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A2 • A3 up to 150m² and subject to Prior Approval D2 up to 200m² and subject to Prior Approval and only if the premises was in A1 use on 5th December 2013 A mixed use comprising an A1 or A2 use and up to 2 flats may also be permitted subject to meeting certain conditions • C3 up to 150m² and subject to Prior Approval.
<p>A2 (professional and financial services) when premises have a display window at ground level, but excluding betting offices or pay day loan shops</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1 • A3 up to 150m² and subject to Prior Approval D2 subject to Prior Approval and only if the premises was in A2 use on 5th December 2013 A mixed use comprising an A1 or A2 use and up to 2 flats may also be permitted subject to meeting certain conditions • C3 up to 150m² and subject to Prior Approval,.
<p>A3 (restaurants and cafes)</p>	<p>A1 or A2</p>
<p>A4 (drinking establishments)</p>	<p>A4 drinking establishment with A3 (restaurants and cafes)</p>
<p>A5 (hot food takeaways)</p>	<p>A1 or A2 or A3</p>
<p>A4 drinking establishment with A3 (restaurants and cafes)</p>	<p>A4 (drinking establishments)</p>
<p>B1 (business)</p>	<p>Up to 500m² B8.</p>
<p>B2 (general industrial)</p>	<p>B1</p>
<p>B2 (general industrial)</p>	<p>Up to 500m² B8</p>
<p>B8 (storage and distribution)</p>	<p>Up to 500m² B1 C3 (subject to prior approval)</p>
<p>C3 (dwellinghouses)</p>	<p>C4 (small houses in multiple occupation)</p>
<p>C4 (small houses in multiple occupation)</p>	<p>C3 (dwellinghouses)</p>
<p>Sui Generis(casinos)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D2 A3 only if existing building is under 150m² and subject to Prior Approval • C3 up to 150m² and subject to Prior Approval.
<p>Sui Generis(betting offices and pay day loan shops)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1 • A2 • C3 up to 150m² and subject to Prior Approval

	<p>A mixed use comprising a betting office or a pay day loan shop, or an A1 or A2 use and up to 2 flats may also be permitted subject to meeting certain conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D2
<p>Sui Generis (agricultural buildings)</p>	<p>A1, A2, A3, B1, B8, C1, C3, D2, all subject to meeting relevant criteria and Prior Approval. See notes below.</p>

Appendix 24

Community Infrastructure Levy – An Overview

What is the Community Infrastructure Levy?

Local authorities can choose to charge the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on new developments in their area. It is different from ‘developer contributions’ that are directly related to a particular development. The CIL 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. This concept has been subject to a variety of adjustments and updates so the current regulations and criteria should be checked on the Government’s web site.

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
- certainty for developers regarding what they will need to contribute
- 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 Planning Authorities can decide that some buildings, or buildings in particular locations, are exempt.

How is the levy charged?

The levy is 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.

Charging authorities are 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 is charged on new builds permitted through 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 become due from the date that a chargeable development is commenced in accordance with the terms of the relevant planning permission. The collecting authority issues a liability notice setting out the amount of the levy due for payment, 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.

Exceptional circumstances

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, Stop Notices, and resort to the courts.

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.

The relationship between CIL and AONB

Projects within the AONB could qualify for CIL and they should, ideally, be included in the LPAs' Infrastructure Delivery Plans. Where a Neighbourhood Plan exists, the community benefits from 25% of the CIL revenues arising from development in their area. Neighbourhoods are advised to publish their spending priorities. It is recognised that housing development in this AONB benefits by a price increase in the order of 26% over equivalent housing outside the AONB. It is, therefore, not unreasonable for a proportion of that benefit to be returned to the AONB to sustain the environment that creates the benefit.

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:

- Local products such as Cranborne Chase Cider. In addition to supporting the local economy, the production of cider helps to preserve the tradition of cider making in the area and ensures the maintenance of old orchards and apple species
- Restoration of locally distinctive features such as historic black and white wooden finger posts
- Repurposing heritage street furniture such as the archetypal red telephone boxes to create information points for walks or book exchanges
- Understanding and recording farmsteads in Wiltshire
- The establishment a community pub - The Drovers Inn, Gussage All Saints community owned pub re-opened July 2016 and was a finalist in the Plunkett Foundation's Rural Communities Co-operative Awards 2017 and a Taste of Dorset Awards finalist 2017
- First World War commemorations including its impact locally, the creation of a memorial garden and the reinstatement of military cap badges cut into the chalk on Sutton Down
- Creatives arts projects including Deverills Performing Arts, Bird Henge – a henge of giant Wiltshire birds and Ashscape -a celebration of the ash tree
- 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.

Appendix 26

Publications on the AONB Website

www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk

AONB Studies and Seminars

Publication:	Details:
Raising Our Game	<p>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).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising Our Game - 2011 Final Report (PDF, 2Mb) • Raising Our Game - 2007 Research (PDF, 2Mb)
The Chase, the Hart and the Park	<p>An exploration of the historic landscapes of the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chase, The Hart and the Park - Information (PDF, 260kB) • The Chase, The Hart and the Park - Edited by Katherine Barker and based on papers given at a one-day seminar held in Sixpenny Handley in November 2006 (PDF, 2Mb) • The Medieval Deer Parks of the Cranborne and West Wiltshire Downs AONB - Embracing areas of Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire and Somerset by Katherine Barker - May 2006 (PDF 0.7Mb)
Climate Change Seminar 22 Sept 2010	<p>Documentation from the Climate Change Seminar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q & A's, Group Discussions and Comments (PDF, 104kb) • Feed-in Tariffs and the Renewable Heat Incentive (PDF, 450kb) <p>Pete West, Renewable Energy Development Officer, Dorset County Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)
Landscape Character Assessment	<p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Character Assessment (PDF, 2.8Mb) <p>Please note, this is a low resolution version - for further information see the Landscape Character Assessment page.</p>

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)

Historic Landscape Characterisation

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 (PDF, 4.6Mb)

For more information visit the AONB Historic Landscapes Website

Landscape Sensitivity

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

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

Tranquillity

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 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

- B3081 Landscape Character Appraisal Report (PDF 3.64MB)
- The following study provides an appraisal of the historic and archaeological characteristics of the B3081 - B3081 Historic Landscape Appraisal (PDF 1MB)

Other AONB Publications

Publication:	Details:
--------------	----------

Enhancing the visitor

- Encouraging a sustainable approach to the visitor economy of the Cranborne Chase AONB (PDF 800Kb) -

economy

19th January 2012

Rural Highways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Guide to Conserving and Enhancing the Landscape Settings of our Rural Highways (PDF 2.2Mb) - April 2016
-----------------------	---

Archaeology on Your Farm	<p>Cranborne Chase 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeology on your Farm: Gaining from History (PDF, 900Kb)
---------------------------------	---

Leaflets	<p>Leaflet of producers in the AONB, and a map and guide for visitors.</p> <p>If you would like copies of these leaflets sent to you, please contact us.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 page guide to local producers in the AONB (PDF, 1MB) • 2 page map and information guide for visitors (PDF, 1MB)
-----------------	---

The Legal Record of Rights of Way Leaflet	<p>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> <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights of Way Leaflet (PDF, 963kB)
--	--

Guidance and Advice for Statutory Bodies	<p>England's statutory landscape designations: a practical guide to your duty of regard (PDF, 1Mb).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance and Advice for Statutory Bodies (PDF, 600Kb).
---	--

Annual Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report 2016/2017 (PDF 1.1Mb)
-----------------------	---

Woodfuel & Woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Guide to Small Scale Biomass Heating Projects (PDF, 700Kb). • Woodland Project Methodology (PDF, 1Mb) <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A landscape view of trees and woodlands (PDF, 7.3Mb)
---------------------------------	---

**South
Wiltshire
Farmland Bird
Project
Documents**

- Archive page from website (PDF 1Mb)
- Project Summary (PDF 1.2Mb)
- Final Project Report (PDF 3.3Mb)

Planning Related Publications

Publication:	Details:
--------------	----------

This Landscape Character Assessment was commissioned in 2017 by the Cranborne Chase & Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership to support a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund’s Landscape Partnership programme, which provides grants for the conservation and enjoyment of areas of distinctive landscape character. The study was prepared by Chris Blandford Associates (CBA).

**Cranborne
Chase &
Chalke
Valley
Landscape
Character
Assessment**

The overall aim of the Cranborne Chase & Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme is to enable a wide range of people to engage in the conservation and enjoyment of the area’s historic, natural and cultural landscapes.

The purpose of this study is to provide a Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) of the area to inform the Partnership’s Landscape Conservation Action Plan to be submitted in support of the HLF bid.

- Cranborne Chase & Chalke Valley Landscape Character Assessment (Optimised PDF, 16Mb)
- Cranborne Chase & Chalke Valley Landscape Character Assessment (Full Resolution PDF, 36Mb)

**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)

Planning Reports

- 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)
- 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)

Landscape and Rural Highways

- A Guide to Conserving and Enhancing the Landscape Settings of our Rural Highways (PDF 2.2Mb)

The AONB position 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 Statements

- Download Lighting: types, qualities and impacts (1.2Mb) - Paper by Bob Mizon - Commission for Dark Skies (CfDS)
- Position Statement 1 - Light Pollution (PDF, 75Kb)
- 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)
- Position Statement 6 - Good enough to approve in an AONB (PDF 79Kb)
- Position Statement 7 - Affordable Parking (PDF 70Kb)
- Position Statement 8 - Farm Diversification (PDF 74Kb)
- Position Statement 9 - Field scale photovoltaic panels (PDF 173Kb)
- Position Statement 10 – Housing within the AONB (PDF 209Kb)

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 Sheets
and Good
Practice
Notes**

- Fact Sheet 1 - Section 85 Factsheet & Good Practice (PDF, 26Kb)
- Fact Sheet 2 - Local Plan, LDF & Good Practice (PDF, 29Kb)
- 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)
- Fact Sheet 7 - Good External Lighting (PDF 70Kb)
- Fact Sheet 7a - Recommendations for Dark-Sky compliant lighting on new builds & refurbishments - a Developers' Guide (PDF 500kb)
- Fact Sheet 8 - New Agricultural Buildings (PDF 70Kb)
- Fact Sheet 9 - Using Landscape Character Assessments in Neighbourhood Planning (PDF 1Mb)
- 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 that the natural beauty of AONBs is valued and secure.

Its mission is to support and develop a network of ambitious AONB partnerships with a strong collective voice.

The NAAONB achieved charitable status in October 2015 and it is now a Charitable Company limited by guarantee. The Charity has three objects:

- a. to promote the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty including the physical, natural, cultural and built environment in and around Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, other Protected Areas, and those areas for which such designation might be pursued,
- b. to advance the education, understanding and appreciation of the public in relation to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty including the physical, natural, cultural and built environment of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), other Protected Areas and those areas for which such designation might be pursued, and
- c. to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of those organisations promoting or representing Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, other Protected Areas and those areas for which such designation might be pursued.

Its current Strategic and Business Plans can be accessed via <http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/about-us/the-naaonb/>

Appendix 28

Additional Information - Landscape

Overview

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.

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 AONB Partnership approaches the tasks of conserving and enhancing the landscapes of the AONB.

Geology and Geomorphology

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).

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.)

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.

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

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. The recent (2018) 'Landscape Character Assessment for Cranborne Chase and the Chalke Valley' provides further analysis and refinement for that area.

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.

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.

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 <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>, supporting internationally rare species of bryophytes, invertebrates and fungi.

Map 6: Chalk Grasslands

Map 8: Ancient 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 AONB² in 2008 showed that 40% of Environmental Stewardship expenditure in the AONB (£669,000) was linked to options associated with hedgerow and grassland management, while only 12% of the agri-environment scheme expenditure was on arable farmland (by far the majority of the AONB). The most effective biodiversity options are the least popular with farmers. In order to address this imbalance and increase wildlife associated with arable farmland, the AONB hosted the South Wiltshire Farmland Bird Project from 2009 to 2015. Early research into the impacts of providing approximately 1000ha of new farmland bird habitat across the AONB have shown promising increases in a number of species.

<http://www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk/our-work/farmland-conservation-project>

The Countryside Stewardship Scheme which replaced Environmental Stewardship in 2014, has considerable more emphasis on the in-field management options needed by birds and insects as part of the Wild Pollinator and Farm Wildlife Package.

Biodiversity 2020

A new Strategy for Nature has been promised in the Government’s policy paper *A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment*³. It also states the ambition to develop a Nature Recovery Network that aims to provide an additional 500,000 hectares of wildlife habitat.

Biodiversity 2020, the current government’s strategy for England’s wildlife is still valid at the time of writing. 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,

² ‘Strengthening Landscape Character through Entry Level Stewardship’, Dr Jemma Batten, Black Sheep Countryside Management August 2008

³ A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment Defra 1st February 2018

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:

Butterflies⁴ 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 species⁵ 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

⁴ The State of Britain's Butterflies 2011, Butterfly Conservation

⁵ Bird data based on the findings of British Trust for Ornithology in Bird Trends <http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdtrends/2011>

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%).

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

Corn bunting	Water vole	Greater horseshoe bat
Grey partridge	Early gentian	Ancient Semi-natural Woodlands
Skylark	Adonis blue butterfly	Lowland calcareous grasslands
Tree sparrow	Duke of Burgundy butterfly	Chalk rivers
Turtle dove	Brown hare	

In 2018, Defra published a report entitled ‘UK Biodiversity Indicators’ assessing changes in the 24 indicators set to measure progress.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729713/UKBI_2018v2.pdf

Between 2012 and 2017 it was reported that the areas of land in agri-environment schemes had fallen but areas of forestry land certified as sustainably managed has not changed over the same period.

AONB Projects

The AONB s a major partner in the Cranborne Chase Farm Conservation Project (Appendix 16), a significant initiative that seeks to create groups of neighbouring farmers working together for the benefit of wildlife at a landscape rather than local scale. Funding comes from Wessex Water and this AONB.

Currently the four farm clusters in the AONB cover an area of 38,300ha and involve 60 farmers and landowners.

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).

Figure 6: Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the AONB (2017)

SSSI CONDITION	Area (hectares)
Favourable	1528
Unfavourable (Recovering)	1802
Unfavourable (No Change)	66
Unfavourable (Declining)	20
Destroyed	1

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 8: 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:

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.

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 disease could reduce even further the profitability of our livestock enterprises.

***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.

Within the AONB 'The Source to Sea Project' <http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/what-we-do/The+Source+to+Sea+Project> <https://environmentagency.blog.gov.uk/2015/09/09/the-source-to-sea-project/> covers the whole of the River Avon catchment and aims to tackle nine non-native invasive species such as Himalayan balsam, Orange balsam, American skunk cabbage, Japanese knotweed, 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. Several farm clusters are working to address chalk grassland conservation and restoration at a landscape scale.

Funding for the natural environment

The Agriculture Bill published in September 2018, sets out a new agricultural policy once the United Kingdom leave the EU and Common Agricultural Policy in 2019. Payments to farmers will be made for provision of public goods rather than as a subsidy to food production. These will include, "*delivery of environmental outcomes such as clean air, thriving plants and wildlife, and helping to mitigate climate change; and will support the delivery of enhanced animal health and welfare beyond the regulatory baseline, where enhancements are valued by the public but not sufficiently provided by the market*". How much money will be available for habitat management and creation through agri-environment schemes is currently unknown.

Ref <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-future-for-food-farming-and-the-environment-policy-statement-2018/health-and-harmony-the-future-for-food-farming-and-the-environment-in-a-green-brex-it-policy-statement>

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 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 20th century have reduced the extent of the surviving ancient landscapes transforming some areas of the AONB. The 18th and 19th 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 19th 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.

Foundations of Archaeology

Greater community understanding and appreciation of the historic environment has been achieved through the HLF funded Foundations of Archaeology. This project linked volunteers with ancient sites, expert surveyors, and local museums, helping them to learn surveying and conservation techniques whilst, at the same time, adding data to the store of information at these centres.

The project successfully working with over 90 volunteers to help further investigate and evaluate archaeological sites associated with these pioneers in South Wiltshire and North East Dorset. A range opportunities to volunteer were provided including practical conservation on ancient sites; learning to undertake archaeological surveys; and following in the footsteps of the first archaeologists.

A wider audience of over a 1,000 people were engaged through outreach programmes at Chalke Valley History Festival, and Salisbury Festival of Archaeology. The project has provided an ongoing legacy of engagement with a travelling exhibition being created which will be at Salisbury Museum in 2018 before moving to new venues in the Cranborne Chase AONB.

The volunteer group is still active and is working at Pertwood on the West Wiltshire Downs and will be further engaged through the Cranborne Chase Landscape Partnership starting in early 2019. This will enable the volunteer group to be expanded to a more diverse group of people.

Appendix 31

Additional Information - Rural Land Management

Overview

Land ownership in the Cranborne Chase 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 12*). 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)⁶ 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.

Woodland management

⁶ DEFRA state that estimates are based on a sample survey and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling error.

During the 16th and 17th 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 18th and 19th 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 conservation⁷.

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.

The AONB commissioned a research project Strengthening Landscape Character through Entry Level Environmental Stewardship in 2008⁸ 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*).

⁷ Blake, D. 2007 Raising Our Game - a survey of game management in the Cranborne Chase AONB.

⁸ 'Strengthening Landscape Character through Entry Level Stewardship', Dr Jemma Batten, Black Sheep Countryside Management August 2008

Table 11: Uptake of Environmental Stewardship in the AONB

	National Target	England		Cranborne Chase AONB	
	Proportion of total area of farmed land in England	Area (ha)	% of farmed area (9,200,000 ha)	Area (ha)	% of farmed area (87,317 ha)
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.

Table 11: Uptake of Environmental Stewardship in the AONB

	National Target	England		Cranborne Chase AONB	
	Proportion of total area of farmed land in England	Area (ha)	% of farmed area (9,200,000 ha)	Area (ha)	% of farmed area (87,317 ha)
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, other than the government's intention to transfer support to the provision of 'public goods' – which is interpreted as environmental enhancements – and a phasing down of land / production based support by 2027.

Appendix 32

The Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme

The AONB team submitted a successful first stage application to the HLF in 2016 for a Landscape Partnership Scheme covering the chalklands that comprise the historic core of Cranborne Chase and the valley of the River Ebble, known locally as the Chalke Valley. Since August 2017 a full time project development officer has been working with the team to bring together the package of projects that will enhance the landscape, improve knowledge and understanding of the heritage and environment of the area, and embed a legacy to sustain the conservation and appreciation of the area into the future. Implementation would be over the five year period of this AONB Management Plan.

A number of specialist reports have been commissioned to inform the preparation of the integrated suite of projects, and engagement with communities and events has progressed at a pace. A dedicated web site has been established and key reports, such as the CCCV Landscape Character Assessment, can be found there, along with the hugely valuable resource, the Heritage Compendium.

The Landscape Partnership scheme is aiming to improve access and understanding of the historic and cultural heritage of the area via a group of on-site interpretation and facilitated access activities under the umbrella of 'Ancient Ways'. 'Chase Champions' seeks to advance knowledge and comprehension of the natural and cultural wealth of the area through hi-tec recording and research, wildlife monitoring and habitat enhancement, and community, school cluster, and volunteer recruitment and engagement. Enhancing the natural resources of the downlands, woods, and the River Ebble through sensitive management informed by local experience is at the heart of the 'Number 1 for Nature' theme.

Details of the CCCV LPS, the background studies, and the variety of activities envisaged can be found on the dedicated web site:

<http://www.cccvlps.org.uk/>

An overview of the range and scope of projects envisioned for the LPS is set out below.

The vision for a £2.5M Landscape Partnership Scheme over 5 years

“A healthier and better functioning landscape for people and wildlife, nationally recognised for its beauty, it’s extraordinary historic links to the past. A place where everyone can make a true connection with their environment, a living landscape where opportunities exist for present and future generations to appreciate and enjoy nature and heritage”

We will:-

- Orchestrate practical work to conserve, enhance & restore key features of natural and cultural heritage
- Work in partnership to promote and aid sustainable management of the landscape
- Provide opportunities for individuals and communities to care for, and make decisions about local heritage
- Foster a pride in the unique and rich heritage and quality of naturalness of the landscape – amongst the local population, businesses and gateway communities
- Promote opportunities for people to develop knowledge and skills to increase the sustainability of the landscape and provide a legacy for the future

Nurturing Nature (Biodiversity programme – engaging communities, volunteer training, work & landowner grants)

375ha of habitat improved or better managed as a result of practical volunteer work, grants & biological surveying (mainly Chalk Grassland). 130 people trained in specie identification or practical conservation skills. 5000 people engaged. 1740 volunteer recording or practical conservation days (including youth champions). A legacy of 50 regular volunteer recorders inspired, trained and continuing to operate in the area. 30% of people in communities can name special species or habitats associated with this special landscape around them or on the doorstep.

Crystal Clear Ebble (Protection, restoration, and improvement of this important chalk river)

22km of Ebble in better quality, 15km of banks better managed, 12 species aided, 60 projects tackle run-off and alien species as a result of action by landowners, communities, volunteers and grants. 900 volunteer days, a booklet on good bank management, 92 people learning new practical survey and conservation skills.

Community ownership animated Ebble film by young people in the valley celebrating how special the river is and what is being done to improve and care for it. A legacy of better land management throughout the valley and 4 volunteer river wardens.

Wonderful Woodlands (Bringing woodlands back to life, skills, education & jobs)

At least 115ha of the woodland key to the structure of our chalk downland landscape, people, wildlife & businesses created, brought back into management or improved for biodiversity value. 20 key heritage features or key woodland species safeguarded for the future. 90 people trained in key woodland skills & crafts (including 40 youth people). Resource pack, training, site advice and grants to landowners. 230 volunteer days and 4 new woodcraft businesses, individuals or communities managing local woodlands. 70 young people who have little contact with the landscape on their doorstep, economic or social barriers to participation through our ‘Woodland Wild things’ programme.

Greater Grazing (Martin Down)

Transforming grazing on the 3rd largest unbroken chalk grassland in the UK. 180 hectares of chalk grassland improved or safeguard. At least 15 key species benefiting. 10 ancient monuments cleared and protected. 1250 people attending events, 240 volunteer days conservation work.

Starry, Starry Nights (Dark Skies training & events)

Baseline monitoring of dark skies to aid Dark Sky Reserve Status, a recruitment and training programme resulting in at least 6 new Dark Sky champions monitoring and working to influence lighting in their communities and 8 new Dark Sky event leaders to run starry night sessions and walks. More than 200 young people receiving workshops and 150 people attending events. A pop-up planetarium, plus training and resources for local tourism businesses to promote the quality of our dark skies in the area.

Champions for the past (Huge archaeological engagement & action programme)

Communities of Shaftesbury, Salisbury, Blandford, Wimborne and Fordingbridge engaged with 'History Hunters' roadshow to inspire interest in the historic landscape on their doorstep. More than 4000 children (5-11) will receive outreach dig box, artefact, stories & skills sessions from museum volunteers and actors playing local archaeologists.

Roadshow climax public evening event 'Horrible histories style' in each town to inspire interest and sign up as volunteers for the programme.

200 people then trained in a whole range of archaeological skills/activities. Big Dig and open events for more than 3000 people. LiDAR air survey of the area and on-line mapping provided for communities and volunteers to investigate. 200 new sites ground-truthed, recorded and many targeted for conservation and grant work to safeguard for future generations. At least 30 sites in better condition by the end of the project. 5 trench investigations and 5 research projects. New volunteer groups formed and group leaders/champions developed, 2 heritage traineeships per annum across our museum cluster, plus outcomes such as - Ph.D. projects, new interpretation & online resources

Heritage Schools Cluster

Teacher network trained by Historic England in ways to incorporate heritage more broadly into the curriculum, online tools, and research skills. As a result of the project 24 local schools will have increased use of heritage in the curriculum, they'll be 20 school initiated local heritage projects, 4800 children benefiting, resources for other schools in the area providing ideas and guidance for making more of the history on their doorstep. The network will test landscape partnership products like interpretation for suitability. A film may be made to capture the journey during the project of schools connecting with their local heritage.

Bringing the landscape to life (Interpretation & Discovery Programme)

12 places will benefit from cutting-edge technology to bring the lumps, bumps, and stories of the landscape to life, allow people to time travel to see sites in the past and bring historical characters to life as virtual guides. 6 more traditional interpretation points will be provided at key locations.

Interpretation is intended to transform how local people, communities, and visitors understand or value this extraordinarily rich landscape. The imprint of man and stories of this

landscape are truly inspirational, but unknown to most, man settled, farmed and undertook ceremonies here before and on a bigger scale than at Stonehenge! Treasure discovery trail app. across 30 sites for families.

Ancient Ways & footsteps on the Chalk (Access programme)

35km of rights of way improved, modest parking in a handful of locations, 75km of rights of way cleared and maintained by volunteers. 15 newly promoted walks and rides. 735 volunteer days involved in route development or practical work. 210 youth volunteer days. 7 new walking champions/walk leaders. 280 people signed up to 'Active Outdoors' swap shop, a new online resource for matching up individuals suffering from rural isolation with others to share the countryside with.

Communities caring for Heritage (Community grants)

7 communities assisted in planning their own projects to research, care for or celebrate the heritage that is important to them.

Community Arts-based Projects:-

- **Words in the Landscape:** 150 pieces of poetry created/composed, writing competition &
- Festival of words. We'll be encouraging prose and poetry amongst schoolchildren as part of community creative workshops and a professional poet will produce 5 new works to celebrate the distinctive qualities of the area.
- **Voices in the Landscape:** La Folia delivering 21 workshops, developing new songs of the chase and delivering performances and online songbook/performance video
- **Walking Festival and Celebration in Silk Flags:** 70 promoted walks over the 5 years. 32 walk leaders found and trained. Community involvement in the creation of silk flags depicting the special qualities of the area used at promotional events and workshops. The ambition is for a walking festival to grow in size each year, alongside an increasing number of silk flags accompanying walkers each time.
- **Characters of the Chase - Community Theatre:** Community actors will appear during the walking festival to join the participants, connecting them to a range of inspiring characters and stories connected to the Cranborne Chase and Chalke Valley area. There will be a large play planned and delivered to celebrate the characters of the chase, filmed to share with a wider audience. Workshops involving communities and delivered at end of scheme celebrations.
- **Artist residencies:** 135 new pieces of art inspired by the landscape as new artists are mentored by professionals through 9 workshops. These will be exhibited online and at the scheme celebration event.
- **Memories captured** (Oral history project): Traditional land management skills and craftsmanship, such as coppicing, making hurdles and water meadow management were being lost with the older generation. This project will capture 40 people's oral stories and involve 15 people being trained in undertaking recorded interviews.

Roman Rally & Living History Events

To heighten interest in the scheme, and the number of heritage features still obvious in today's landscape, a march of a Roman unit of 30+ soldiers will take place along the Ackling Dyke south of Broad Chalke. Those recreating the roman unit will be joined by school junior roman units following behind (with workshops in schools on Romans & making their own shields). This project is intended to capture media attention and coverage with additional

'Living History' activities on Romans and their links to the area visited by thousands at the Chalke Valley History Festival and Ancient Technology Centre over two successive weekends. The units march along Ackling Dyke, return over Pentbury Knoll and the living history activities at both events will be filmed and shared as an interpretative resource into the future.

Dorset Cursus Ceremony

The Dorset Cursus is the largest Neolithic site in the UK. It was a ceremonial causeway kept free of vegetation 10km long and over 80metres wide. We are planning to recreate the route with markers across the landscape and through a large scale event to recreate a winter solstice Neolithic/Bronze Age ceremony for many hundreds of people to watch, with a henge choir and landscape scale fire installation. More than 50 volunteers will help and they'll be museum tours, talks and Neolithic art workshops based at the Cursus in the run-up to the event.

Larmer Tree Victorian Scheme Celebration

In September during Yr 4, the whole scheme will be celebrated as a festival day with performances, talks, displays, exhibitions, awards for volunteers under a themed recreation of the Edwardian education events held at Larmer Tree by Pitt-Rivers. It is hoped that thousands will attend to celebrate the successes of the scheme and as a spectacle in its own right. Presenters and guides on the day will all be dressed in period costume.

Appendix 33

Additional Information - Planning and Transport

Overview

Since 2009 four County and five District Local Authorities have had responsibility for planning and development issues as the statutory local planning authorities. In April 2019 East Dorset and North Dorset districts are absorbed into a Unitary Dorset Council creating two Unitary, two County, and three District Authorities as the planning authorities for this AONB.

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. Highways England 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. The freight route network map for Wiltshire is an example of how strategic and local routes interlink. <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-road-freight>

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 Partnership 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 have, 2015, produced practical guidance on the landscape management of highway corridors, 'A Guide to Conserving and Enhancing the Landscape Settings of our Rural Highways'.

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 2038 Listed Buildings, 63 Conservation Areas, 17 Listed Parks and Gardens and 400 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 172 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. The revision of the NPPF in July 2018 allows decision makers to conclude that development below the defined threshold for 'major' should be treated as major owing to the likely impacts on the AONB. That NPPF revision has also provided an added focus on enhancing landscape and scenic beauty and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage in AONBs.

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 proposed⁹

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.¹⁰

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

⁹ 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 Silton, 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.

¹⁰ 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.'

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, and compensation for those aspects that cannot be avoided, mitigated, or offset.

Appendix 34

Sustaining 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 AONB is just over 32,400, based on the 2011 Census. Spread over an area of 981 sq km, this gives a population density of 33 people per square kilometer. This is very low when compared to the average of 84.78 persons per square kilometer for rural England.

(Source: 2011 census for England – All usual Residents – Rural (Table QS102EW – Population Density)

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.

Service provision and access to services and facilities

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 can be time limited due to ongoing lack of funding. Very successful community shops have been established in East Knoyle, Hindon, Broadchalke, Maiden Bradley and Martin. A new village shop and bakery opened in 2018, a year after the previous village shop closed down. The conversion of the old games room at the Penruddocke Arms, in Dinton near Salisbury was possible with the support of The Pub is the Hub. Two pubs that had been abandoned for a number of years have been given new life namely the Royal Oak at Swallowcliffe and The Greater Good at Fovant.

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 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.

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.

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/>

KEY FACTS

Population

- Population growth in all Wiltshire Community Areas covering the AONB was lower than the Wiltshire average.

- Mere Community Area is the least populous community area in Wiltshire with Tisbury Community Area being the second least populous
- Between 2001 and 2011, the Tisbury Community Area was the only community area to have experienced a decrease in total population.
- Tisbury has the least dense community area population in Wiltshire
- Mere Community Area has the lowest percentage of its total population under the age of 15 years, the lowest percentage of its total population being of working age and the highest percentage of its total population being of retirement age and over.
- Three of the Community Areas namely Wilton, Mere and Warminster show a slightly higher percentage of households deprived in either three or four types of deprivation compared to the Wiltshire average.

Education

- For pupil achievement at Key Stage 2 (KS2) (pupils aged 4-11) the average results for Warminster and Wilton Community Areas are below local authority and statistical neighbour comparators. Those for Mere, South West Wiltshire and Tisbury are above average.

Childhood poverty

- There are pockets of relative affluence and pockets of deprivation within all of the community areas.

Employment

- Since 2011, Wiltshire as a whole has continued to exhibit economic resilience and has experienced sustained recovery. The level of employment in the public sector, however, has been identified as an issue and a key driver has been to broaden the employment base of Wiltshire.

Health

- 2,100 homes in the south of Wiltshire are fitted with telecare (assistive technology) systems, such as lifelines and pendant alarms, which allow people to remain in their own homes with the reassurance of knowing that if they have a problem there is someone at the end of a telephone able to provide assistance 24 hours a day.
- The cost of adult social care is known to rise significantly for persons over the age of 85 years. Tisbury, Mere and Wilton Community Areas have the smallest populations, aged 85 years and over, of all Wiltshire's community areas
- Warminster and the Southern Wiltshire Community Areas however have above average numbers of those aged 85 and over, when compared to the rest of Wiltshire. This is an indication of an ageing population

Housing

- The average house price is considerably higher, than Wiltshire as a whole, in all community areas, with the exception of Warminster. Demand for affordable housing remains high.

Homelessness

- Homelessness remains an issue. In 2012 the main causes of homelessness in Wiltshire were parental evictions, termination of assured short hold tenancies, and relationship breakdowns.

Volunteering

- Volunteering rates in Tisbury Community Area are the highest recorded across Wiltshire, with 63% of WMTY survey respondents saying that they participate at least once a month in unpaid voluntary activity compared to 42% in the wider county.
- The many of the current cultural offers within the Community Areas are predominantly reliant upon volunteers. This creates risks around the sustainability of the existing offer.

Transport

- Transport links to key services, for the elderly in particular, remain a significant issue within the many of the Community Area.
- The council continues to face challenges with regards to maintaining and improving public transport, particularly in terms of the tension between increasing passenger demands, rising tender costs for subsidised bus services and diminished funding
- Mere & District operate a successful 'link' scheme that is run by volunteers for those who do not have their own transport or are housebound and need access to a variety of services. This scheme is funded predominantly by its users and is one of around 40 of its kind operating in Wiltshire. Supported by the charity Community First, the scheme's aim is to provide a 'good neighbour' service to residents in rural areas.
- Tisbus provides affordable door-to-door, wheelchair accessible, transport for everyone in the Tisbury and Nadder Valley region.
- A new train station at Wilton is on the list of major projects being considered by the Wiltshire and Swindon Local Economic Partnership. However, it could be some years before it obtains funding and it is not certain that the train companies would agree to stop trains there.

- The Salisbury & Wilton Town Cycle network shows where key routes will be investigated and if feasible delivered. Many of these routes are on the A36 which is the remit of the Highways Agency
- Wiltshire Council plans to invest an extra £52M to clear the highway maintenance backlog between 2013 and 2019.
- The Southern Wiltshire Community Area residents raised footpaths as a key issue. Since October 2012, local residents have installed 50 kissing gates replacing stiles to improve access, and volunteers have dedicated more than 400 hours of time to footpath management.

Rural Services

- The number of rural Post Offices and general food stores declined from 1983 to 2008, in line with local and national trends, but this decline has halted from 2008 to 2012. Furthermore, the number of village halls recorded in 2012 was higher than that in 2008.

Environment

- Farming practices have a major environmental impact and majority of the AONB is farmland. The majority of farmland in the Wilton Community Area (88%) is within an established agri-environment scheme, which funds environmental management by farmers and other land managers; this is well above the average for Wiltshire (73%). However less farmland within the Mere and Tisbury Community areas is covered by an agri-environment scheme than Wiltshire as a whole.
- The River Avon system is at risk from a number of factors, including pollution, over-abstraction for water supply, non-native invasive species, modification and damage to river banks, and climate change.

Culture

- The Museums Association reports that just under half of all museums within the country have experienced significant cuts to their budgets and a similar percentage have increased their use of volunteers to replace lost capacity.
- The national Taking Part survey reports that there has been a rapid increase in the number of people accessing cultural activities on line and a steady increase in the number of people volunteering in the cultural sector.

DORSET STATISTICS

Information on North and East Dorset Area Profiles and Dorset wide topics can be found at <https://apps.geowessex.com/stats/>

North Dorset in Profile Key facts and figures about the area

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/north-dorset/local-plan-part-1/submission/local-plan-evidence-base/pdfs/north-dorset-district-profile-updated-2010.pdf>

KEY FACTS

Population

- Compared to the rest of the Dorset population, North Dorset has a higher proportion of people aged 55 to 79, and a lower proportion of people aged 15 to 44.
- The proportion of the population aged 65 & over in North and East Dorset is higher than the national average (25% compared with 17% for North Dorset and 31% for East Dorset)
- The Mosaic Public Sector classifies 25% of households in North Dorset, as 'Residents of Isolated Rural Community' and 18.1% as 'Residents of small and mid-sized towns with strong local roots'
- The Mosaic Public Sector classifies 28.7% of households in East Dorset as 'Successful Professionals living in suburban or semi-rural homes' and 23.9% as 'Active elderly people living in pleasant retirement locations'
- Continued population growth is projected - East Dorset is expected to show a growth in population of 10.7% between 2011 and 2031, an increase of 9,300 persons
- Declining numbers of young people
- Small Black or Minority Ethnic population
- There are no North Dorset areas that fall within the bottom quintile of deprivation. The highest levels of deprivation in North Dorset are found around Blandford. The highest levels of deprivation in East Dorset are found around Wimborne.

Education

- Pupils living in North Dorset perform below the south west and England in GCSEs
- North Dorset has a low percentage of 16-18 years olds Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)
- The number of adults with no qualifications has decreased by 35% over the past decade
- Low levels of literacy and numeracy amongst the adult population

- Over the past ten years the number of adults with degree level qualifications or higher has increased

Housing

- Average house prices in North Dorset are below the Dorset average and slightly below the national figure
- Housing affordability poor for local wage earners - house prices are 9.9 times higher than earnings in North Dorset compared with 6.59 in England.
- Very low proportion of second/holiday homes
- High proportion of homes are owned outright significantly higher than the average for England & Wales
- 22% of all houses built in 2012/13 were affordable compared with just 14% ten years ago.

Health

The main areas where the East Dorset locality has worse outcomes than the national average are the provision of informal care; self reported limiting long term illness, incidence of prostate cancer and hospital admissions for hip and knee replacements.

Transport

- 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

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:

Email: info@cranbornechase.org.uk

Appendix 36

Additional Information – Wellbeing, Involvement and Learning

There is a significant evidence base for the range of individual and wider social health and well-being benefits that can be achieved through outdoor activity and contact with nature. During 2019-24 concerted efforts will focus on encouraging residents and visitors alike, of all ages and abilities, to explore and utilize the AONB to improve physical and mental health and wellbeing through partnership with relevant agencies and organisations.

Some attractions are consistently well visited, including Longleat House and Safari Park, Center Parc, 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.

With regards to involvement and life-long learning, Cranborne Chase was a renowned royal hunting ground 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 19th 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.

This AONB offers outstanding resources for involvement and learning for volunteers, visitors, schools and other educational establishments and local communities. Working through, and encouraging, volunteer involvement in conserving and enhancing this AONB will take centre stage in AONB Delivery Plans during 2019-24.

The aim to develop a 'Living Landscape Centre' remains 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

Acronyms

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ASNW	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland
CA	Conservation Area
CAA	Conservation Area Appraisal
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CfDS	Commission for Dark Skies
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CLA	Country Land and Business Association
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England
CRoW	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
CSS	Countryside Stewardship Scheme
DAS	Design and Access Statement
DBIS	Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
DECC	Department for Energy and Climate Change
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DNS	Dark Night Skies
DfT	Department for Transport
EA	Environment Agency
EH	English Heritage
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ELC	European Landscape Convention
ELMS	Environmental Land Management Scheme
ELS	Entry Level Stewardship
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
ESS	Environmental Stewardship Scheme

EqIA	Equality Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
EWGS	English Woodland Grant Scheme
FC	Forestry Commission
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GPDO	General Permitted Development Order
GWCT	Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust
HE	Historic England / Highways England
HEAP	Historic Environmental Action Plan
HER	Historic Environment Records
HLC	Historic Landscape Characterisation
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
HLS	Higher Level Stewardship
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
IDA	International Dark-Sky Association
IDSR	International Dark Sky Reserve
IT	Information Technology
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JAC	Joint Advisory Committee
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
LPS	Landscape Partnership Scheme

LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
LTP	Local Transport Plan
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
MHCLG	Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government
NAAONB	National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
NE	Natural England
NFU	National Farmers Union
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHS	National Health Service
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Practice Guidance
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
PAWS	Plantation on 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 Interest

SPA	Special Protection Area
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SRT	Sustainable Rural Tourism
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 38

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 (AONB) - AONB is a statutory designation. It 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 the natural beauty of the area'. The legal framework for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty is provided by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

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 Capture and Storage - is the process of trapping carbon dioxide produced by burning fossil fuels or other chemical or biological processes and storing it in such a way that it is unable to affect the atmosphere.

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.

Hymenoscyphus fraxineus- 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.

Ecosystem - short for 'ecological system'. A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

Equality Impact Assessment - is a tool that helps public authorities make sure their policies, and the ways they carry out their functions, do what they are intended to do and for everybody. It involves systematically assessing the likely (or actual) effects of policies on people in respect of disability, gender and racial equality.

Facebook - an online social networking service.

Fixed Point Photography - involves taking a photograph, from exactly the same point, at intervals over a period of time. It is a tool that enables the recording and monitoring of 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

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) - The European Union (EU) Habitats Directive protects certain species of plants and animals which are particularly vulnerable and specifically relates to Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites known as Natura 2000 sites. Any proposal, plan or strategy which may be capable of affecting a SPA/SAC must be considered, no matter how distant from the site. The process of HRA involves an initial 'Screening' stage followed by an Appropriate Assessment (AA) if proposals are likely to have a significant (adverse) impact.

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 Plans (HEAPs) - provide a summary of the key characteristics of the historic environment of the AONB at a landscape scale, setting out the significance, condition and forces for change affecting the historic fabric and

character of the landscape and identifying proactive actions to conserve and enhance them.

Heritage at Risk Register - compiled by English Heritage (now Historic England) and contains information on the Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, and other nationally designated heritage assets, that are at risk as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development, 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 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 European 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”. The Natural Capital Committee advises the government on natural capital, such as forests, rivers, minerals and oceans. The second term of the committee runs till 2020.

Neighbourhood Plan – prepared by a neighbourhood this type of Plan, when approved by a local referendum, gives communities the power to set the priorities for local development

Parish Plan - unless formally adopted by the LPA, this sets out an informal 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 - those characteristics, attributes or qualities that make a place special, distinctive or unique.

Stepping Stones project – a type of project which aims to connect features. Often used in connection with 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’.

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. This now tends to be part of the evidence base for a Neighbourhood Plan.

This page is intentionally left blank

Management Plan 2019-2024

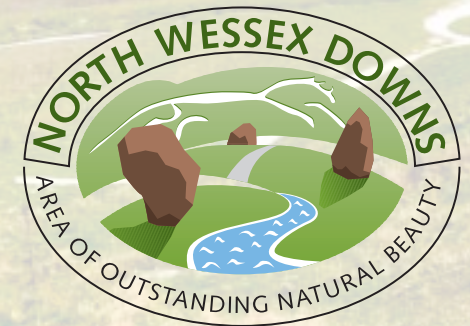
The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Page 289



Version for approval by
Council of Partners
Adoption Draft

January 2019



title page
acknowledgements
publication information
image matrix

Contents

Foreword by DEFRA Secretary of State	X
Introduction by Chairman of NWD Council of Partners	X
Chapter 1 Introduction	X
Chapter 2 Theme 1: Landscape	X
Chapter 3 Theme 2: Rural Land Management	X
Chapter 4 Theme 3: Biodiversity	X
Chapter 5 Theme 4: Historic Environment	X
Chapter 6 Theme 5: Natural Resources	X
Chapter 7 Theme 6: Development	X
Chapter 8 Theme 7: Communities	X
Chapter 9 Theme 8: Tourism, Leisure and Access	X
Chapter 10 Stakeholder Responsibilities	X
Glossary	X
List of figures	X
References and bibliography	X

Foreword

by defra secretary of state

Awaiting text

“The slopes of the downs, if they have general form, are continually changing and interchanging in localities, assuming new and strange shapes, charming and surprising with their grace and exquisiteness, forever reflecting the mood of the heavens”

Quote from the foreword

Introduction

by Chairman of NWD CoP



Page 294

Page 6 Woods, X Jones; Chairman of NWD
XXXXXXXXXXXX

Page 7 Water vole, X Jones

This statutory plan has been drawn up after wide consultation and sets out objectives for the next five years. As well as informing the work of the AONB Unit, we hope it will guide the relevant activities of local authorities, agencies, businesses and individuals.

The North Wessex Downs landscape and the AONB Partnership face greater pressure than ever before. As the restrictions on public finances tighten, it is important that we do our utmost to protect the huge benefit that such a high quality landscape brings. Our society benefits from its influence on our good health and the cultural value that it represents. The economy relies on the processes performed by the natural environment and benefits from it being an attractive place in which to do business.

Through our Management Plan, the AONB Partnership and Unit are actively involved in a range of delivery projects. Over the past five years, the North Wessex Downs AONB has increased the amount of non-government and local authority funding by almost 600%. We have found significant benefit in partnerships with other protected landscapes, joining bids such as the Our Land project, promoting tourism in the AONB and 1SW, which aims to increase access to the countryside. We retain a Sustainable Development Fund that has distributed £0.5m in small grants to over 150 local projects to date, bringing match contributions in excess of £1.5m.

The North Wessex Downs LEADER programme 2009-13 was hosted by the AONB. It awarded £1.419m to 65 different projects - to farmers, foresters, small businesses and rural communities across the North Wessex Downs. The grants have

facilitated a total investment in the area of more than £3 million since 2009. Money awarded will help grow the economy, developing business, creating and supporting jobs, improving competitiveness and sustainability and encouraging tourism.

We have worked with landscape-scale conservation projects including the successful farmer-led Marlborough Downs Nature Improvement Area and the Stepping Stones Project and Winning Ways for Wildlife projects. We also contributed to the development of county-based Local Nature Partnerships where we have been working more closely with nearby AONBs.

This commitment to conservation of the natural environment has led the International Union for the Conservation of Nature to re-affirm the Category V status of the North Wessex Downs as “an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value”.

I would like to thank all the people who have contributed to the work of the North Wessex Downs Partnership and the development of this Plan, in particular our nine local authority partners. I hope that everyone who reads this Plan will be able to contribute in some way to its success

contributed to the work of the North Wessex Downs Partnership and the development of this Plan, in particular our nine local authority partners. I hope that everyone who reads this Plan will be able to contribute in some way to its success contributed to the work of the North Wessex Downs Partnership and the development of this Plan, in particular our nine local authority partners. I hope that everyone who reads this Plan will be able to contribute in some way to its success



AONBs have great potential to help us establish a coherent and resilient ecological network



Double-page spread - quotes and photos here; room for third col of txt

Introduction

context and framework

Setting the Scene

Providing a vision and long-term ambitions for the North Wessex Downs from 2014-2019

1.1 The first two chapters of the 2019-24 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan set out a vision and long-term ambitions for the North Wessex Downs and the legal and policy framework for the Plan.

1.2 This is followed by thematic chapters which describe and explain the special qualities that make this landscape unique: Landscape, Rural Land Management, Biodiversity, Natural Resources, Historic Environment, Development, Communities, and Tourism, Leisure & Access. At the end of each thematic chapter is a summary of the Special Qualities relating to that theme; the key issues relating to the theme; Strategic Objectives for the Plan period; and the AONB Policies to support these objectives and which are intended to guide and inform the policies and actions of all members of the North Wessex Downs Partnership.

1.3 Final chapters of the Plan will cover implementation and monitoring of the Plan, including an outline of how stakeholders are expected to contribute to delivering Strategic Objectives and Policies. The Management Plan is supported by an AONB business plan that sets out the priorities for action on an annual 'review and revise' cycle.

About the North Wessex Downs

1.4 From their western tip at Calne in Wiltshire, the North Wessex Downs reach across central southern

England in a broad eastward arc through southern Swindon and Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. They abut the Chilterns AONB along the River Thames in the Goring Gap area north-west of Reading, dipping south and then sweeping west along the River Kennet valley then south to encircle Newbury, encompassing the northern reaches of the rolling chalk hills of the Hampshire Downs. They then stretch back towards Devizes, across the northern fringes of the high chalk upland of Salisbury Plain and the low-lying Vale of Pewsey.

1.5 The North Wessex Downs is the third largest Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the country. This protected landscape extends to 1,730 km² (668 square miles), an area equivalent to a medium-sized English county. Its resident population is just over 100,000 people (an average density across the AONB of 58.3 residents/km²); the two largest settlements inside the AONB boundary, Hungerford and Marlborough, have a total population of 13,100¹. In contrast, in the immediate setting of the North Wessex Downs lie the significant urban centres of Reading, Newbury, Basingstoke, Andover, Swindon and Didcot, with a combined population of 615,000. An estimated 1.1 million residents live within 20 minutes' drive time of the AONB.

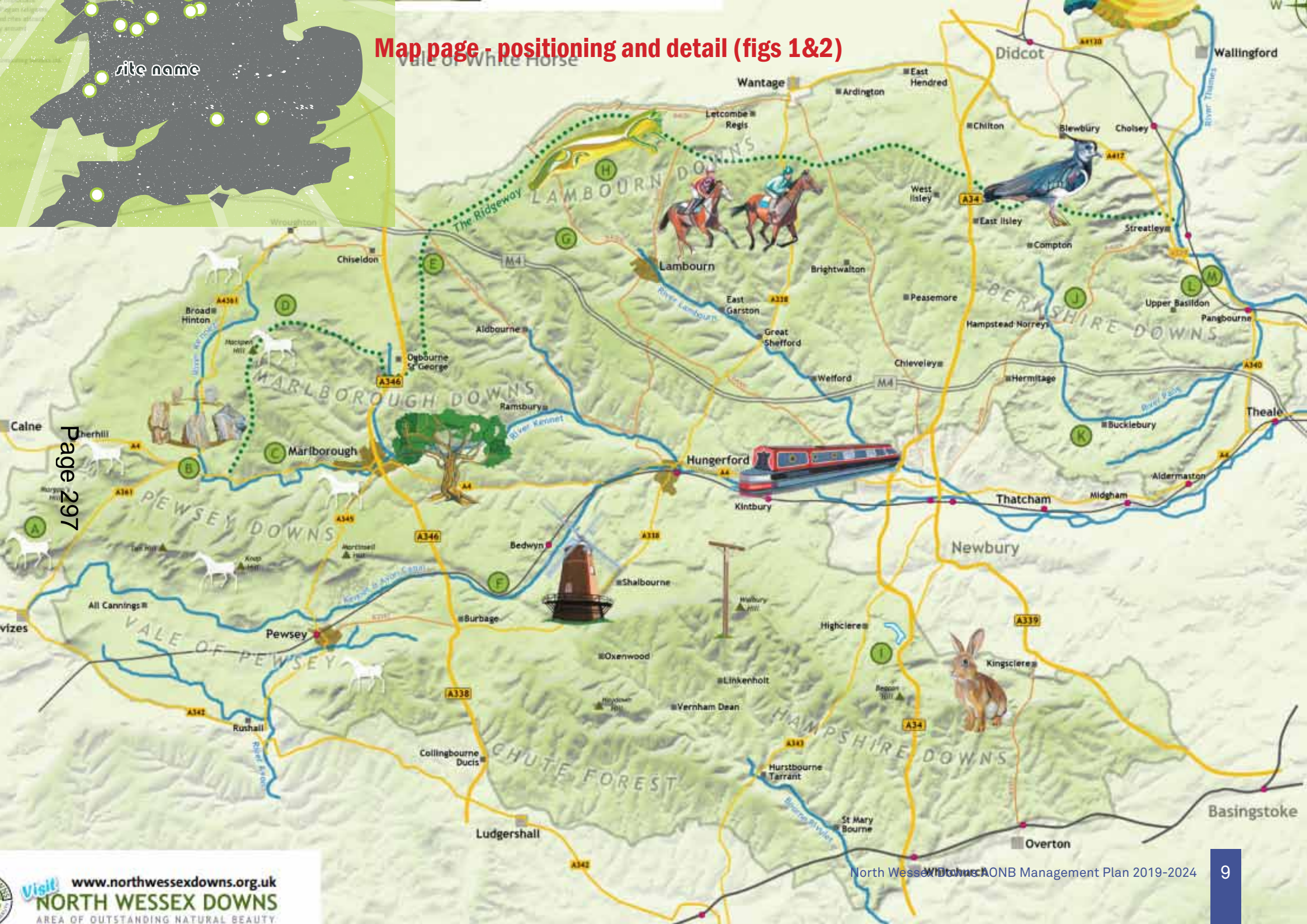
1.6 Two major highways, the M4 and A34 pass through the area, aligned east-west and north-south, respectively; the twin-track railway from London Paddington to Exeter and the South West passes through the centre of the AONB, following, successively, the Kennet, Dun and Avon river valleys and the broader, the larger four-track Great Western Railway route to Bristol and South Wales cuts through the north-eastern extremity of the area along the River Thames valley,

The North Wessex Downs is the third largest Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the country



site name

Map page - positioning and detail (figs 1&2)



Page 297

A Vision for the North Wessex Downs

Vast, dramatic, undeveloped and distinct chalk downlands with nationally significant areas of semi-natural chalk grassland, contrasting with well-wooded plateaux, arable lands and intimate and secluded valleys, all rich in wildlife and cultural heritage; a high quality landscape of national and international significance which persists in increasingly urbanised surroundings; where people live, work and relax; where visitors are welcomed and contribute to a vibrant rural economy; and access to which supports the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors alike.

then follows the northern boundary, outside the AONB but within its setting and clearly visible from the northern scarp.

1.7 The North Wessex Downs was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1972 under the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949. Following the introduction of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the government confirmed that the landscape qualities of National Parks and AONBs are equivalent.

1.8 The North Wessex Downs AONB contains all or part of 173 parishes, straddling the boundaries of two counties, three unitary authorities and four district/borough councils. It sits on a regional divide, with roughly half of the area in the South East and half in South West England, occupying a central position along the line of chalk-dominated landscapes from the Dorset coast to the northern edge of the Chiltern Hills.

1.9 The North Wessex Downs is one of a family of nationally protected landscapes across England comprising 34 AONBs and ten National Parks. Together, these finest, most outstanding English landscapes cover over 23% of the country. The importance of these designated landscapes is also recognised at international level and North Wessex Downs is one of the UK's Category V Protected Landscape, as defined by the International Union for the Conservation of Natureⁱⁱ.

-
- i (3 All population data are based on the 2011 Census unless stated otherwise.
 - ii (4 IUCN –officially the 'International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources'– is a global intergovernmental organisation. The IUCN maintains a database of the world's protected areas, categorised using definitions based upon management objectives.

The long-term goal is that the North Wessex Downs AONB will be a place:

- ▶ where land use, management and development are driven by an overarching principle of stewardship of the protected landscape; where people have the imagination, skills and energy to accommodate and adapt to change in ways that respect the unique qualities of the North Wessex Downs and deliver wider environmental, economic and social benefits.
- ▶ where the highest environmental quality is seen as a key economic driver; where all economic activity is in harmony with maintenance of the landscape and its special qualities; where new buildings and other forms of development display high quality design worthy of one of England's designated finest landscapes.
- ▶ with thriving land based and other rural enterprises where conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the North Wessex Downs is core to these businesses, ensuring a countryside rich in wildlife, heritage and recreational opportunities while producing high quality products, including sustainable farming that benefits the local economy and surrounding countryside.
- ▶ with high quality habitats reflecting the distinctive character of the North Wessex Downs and stable and recovering populations of key species; landscapes that are protected, expanded, linked and under beneficial management resilient to the pressures of climate change.
- ▶ with a rich and conserved cultural landscape where the pervasive historic landscape character is understood, appreciated and informs future change; where iconic monuments, both designated and undesignated heritage areas, archaeological sites, buried archaeology and historic landscapes and historic settlements and their settings remain as indelible and visible footprints in an evolving scene, managed to the very highest standards.
- ▶ where the integrated management of land conserves high quality soils and water resources whilst retaining the distinctive seasonal winterbourne flows and the nationally and internationally significant chalk streams of the AONB.
- ▶ where a sense of remoteness and tranquillity predominates and where vast night skies can thrill the eye, unaffected by light pollution; where these special qualities are recognised in development decisions within in the setting of the AONB, so that the natural beauty of the North Wessex Downs is protected.
- ▶ where development responds to genuine local need and where new buildings show continuity with the past, respecting and complimenting the beauty of the landscape and the character of local vernacular building materials and styles.
- ▶ where the integrated approach to transport and travel satisfies local needs and minimises negative effects on the environment; where the dominance of roads and clutter are reduced.
- ▶ with vibrant rural communities, where villages and market towns meet the needs of local communities and visitors; where there is great local pride in the landscape and positive local contribution to the stewardship of the its special qualities.
- ▶ that is a nationally recognised centre for responsible tourism and enjoyment of the countryside, developed and promoted in ways that are in harmony with the high environmental quality and local community, helping to underpin the broader rural economy.
- ▶ that is recognised as a vital community resource, with potential benefits to physical and mental wellbeing of both local residents and visitors arising from access to nature and the countryside, to a tranquil environment, and the opportunities presented for social interaction and volunteering.
- ▶ where there is wide public recognition of the protected status and special qualities of the North Wessex Downs in among communities in and around the AONB; where all responsible bodies understand and respect the protected status of the area and their duties towards the AONB in their plans and proposals.



Page 10 Scene, X Jones

Page 11 Woods, X Jones; Wildlife, X Jones; Tractor, X Jones

AONB general infographic full page

Page 300

Legal and Policy Framework for the Management Plan

The primary purpose of AONB designation is “conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area”

AONB Purpose and the Meaning of ‘Natural Beauty’

2.1 The primary purpose of AONB designation is set out in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 as “*conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area.*”ⁱⁱⁱ The Act elaborates on this primary purpose, stating that any reference “*to the conservation of natural beauty of an area includes a reference to the conservation of its flora, fauna and geological and physiographic features.*”^{iv}

2.2 Natural beauty goes well beyond scenic or aesthetic value. The natural beauty of the North Wessex Downs is a function of the relationship between people and place over time. It encompasses everything that makes the area distinctive: the area’s geology and landform, its climate, soils and rivers, its wildlife and ecology; the rich history of human settlement and land use over millennia, its archaeology and buildings, cultural associations; the people who have occupied the area in the past and those who live and work here now.

2.3 This relationship is encapsulated in a policy position set out 25 years ago, stating that “*In pursuing the primary purpose of designation, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry and other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of economic and social development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment. Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.*”^v More recent legislation in defining ‘Natural beauty in the countryside’ establishes that “*land used for agriculture or woodlands, ... as a park ... or whose flora, fauna*

or physiographical features are partly the product of human intervention ... [may be] treated as being an area of natural beauty (or of outstanding natural beauty).”^{vi}

2.4 The North Wessex Downs is thus an ancient, evolved cultural landscape, managed and nurtured by people over time. Those who manage the land are central to the future of this landscape. The North Wessex Downs Partnership is committed to long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values in the protected landscape, contributing to a wider network of protected areas. It is inevitable and appropriate that this cultural landscape will continue to change and develop but this needs to be in ways that conserve and enhance its special qualities.

Why is this Management Plan Important?

2.5 This AONB Management Plan presents an agreed agenda for the North Wessex Downs for the next five year period, 2019-2024. It sets out strategic objectives for AONB partners that are judged to be realistic and achievable during the Plan period and policies which support the long term goals set out in the Vision Statement. Working together, the Partners can realise these targets to the benefit of the landscapes and communities of this nationally designated, and internationally recognised, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

2.6 Responsible local authorities are required to prepare an AONB Management Plan and review the Plan no less than every five years. The North Wessex Downs Council of Partners have prepared this plan on behalf of the relevant local authorities of the AONB.

2.7 The Partnership comprises representatives of the constituent local authorities; the local communities; the farming and rural business community; nature conservation, heritage and landscape interests; and recreation interests.

2.8 All relevant authorities are legally obliged, “*in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty*” to “*have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of*

Page 16 Cycling through the XXX, X Jones



Local authorities

must prepare an AONB Management Plan and review it at least every five years

This Plan sets out strategic objectives for AONB partners that are realistic and achievable in the Plan period

the area. ‘Relevant authorities’ include all statutory bodies and all tiers of government, including parish councils and holders of public office.

In addition to obligations under national legislation, the UK is a signatory to the European Landscape Convention (ELC) a multinational treaty which is devoted exclusively to the protection, management and planning of landscapes throughout Europe^{vii}. The ELC seeks to ensure that enhanced landscape planning, protection and management are achieved through ‘quality objectives and an effective policy framework’.

2.9 In particular, the Convention highlights the need to:

- ▶ recognise landscape in law;
- ▶ develop landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and creation of landscapes;
- ▶ and establish procedures for the participation of the general public and other stakeholders in the creation and implementation of landscape policies.

2.10 The ELC encourages the integration of landscape into all relevant areas of policy, including cultural, economic and social policies, with a particular emphasis on the need for co-operation when administrative boundaries are crossed. The North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan is a significant contribution to the UK’s implementation of the Convention.

2.11 Successful implementation of this Management Plan is beyond the resources of the Council of Partners and AONB team alone. It requires the active collaboration and participation of all those involved in its scope. This is a Plan for the North Wessex Downs in its entirety; it is not for any single organisation within it. Implementation requires the support and involvement of the many organisations and individuals who play key roles in the future of the area, many of whom have been involved in preparation of the Plan.

2.12 One way of satisfying the ‘Section 85’ duties placed on Government and other public bodies through the CRoW Act is by

supporting the implementation of this Plan. Local parish councils, statutory agencies and local bodies acting individually or through partnerships can all contribute to fulfilling the Management Plan vision.

Planning for Change

2.13 This Management Plan sits alongside other plans and strategies prepared at national and local levels and a range of environmental legislation and policies and international commitments. The Plan period will be a time of transition as the UK adjusts domestic policy and legislation following its withdrawal from the European Union (EU).

2.14 The areas of EU policy and law which have greatest impact on the North Wessex Downs AONB’s primary purpose to conserve and enhance natural beauty are the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the canon of EU environmental policy and legislative instruments. The UK government has committed to maintain existing environmental protection arising from EU policy and law, so the objectives of, for example, the Water Framework Directive, the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive are to be retained under national legislation. Agricultural support payments, including incentives to enhance biodiversity of the farmed environment, are also guaranteed to continue at least for the first years of this Management Plan. However, it is very clear from, for example, DEFRA’s 25 Year Environment Plan launched in January 2018, the consultation on future of food, farming and the environment launched in February and the Glover review of National Parks and AONBs announced in May this year, that significant reform of support mechanisms and incentives for agriculture – the predominant land use in the North Wessex Downs – and of wider countryside policy and protected landscape can be expected. While the precise time frame for any changes cannot be predicted, it is quite possible that new opportunities will arise during this Plan period to benefit the North Wessex Downs.

Successful implementation of this Plan requires the participation of all those involved in its scope.



2.15 In response to the opportunities and challenges presented through the process of the UK's withdrawal from the EU, the draft Management Plan has included proposals for priorities of a new environmental land management system (ELMS) which would support the special qualities of the AONB landscape types (Table 1, pages 25-27). These proposals will be kept under review and adjusted as the proposed new ELMS develops.

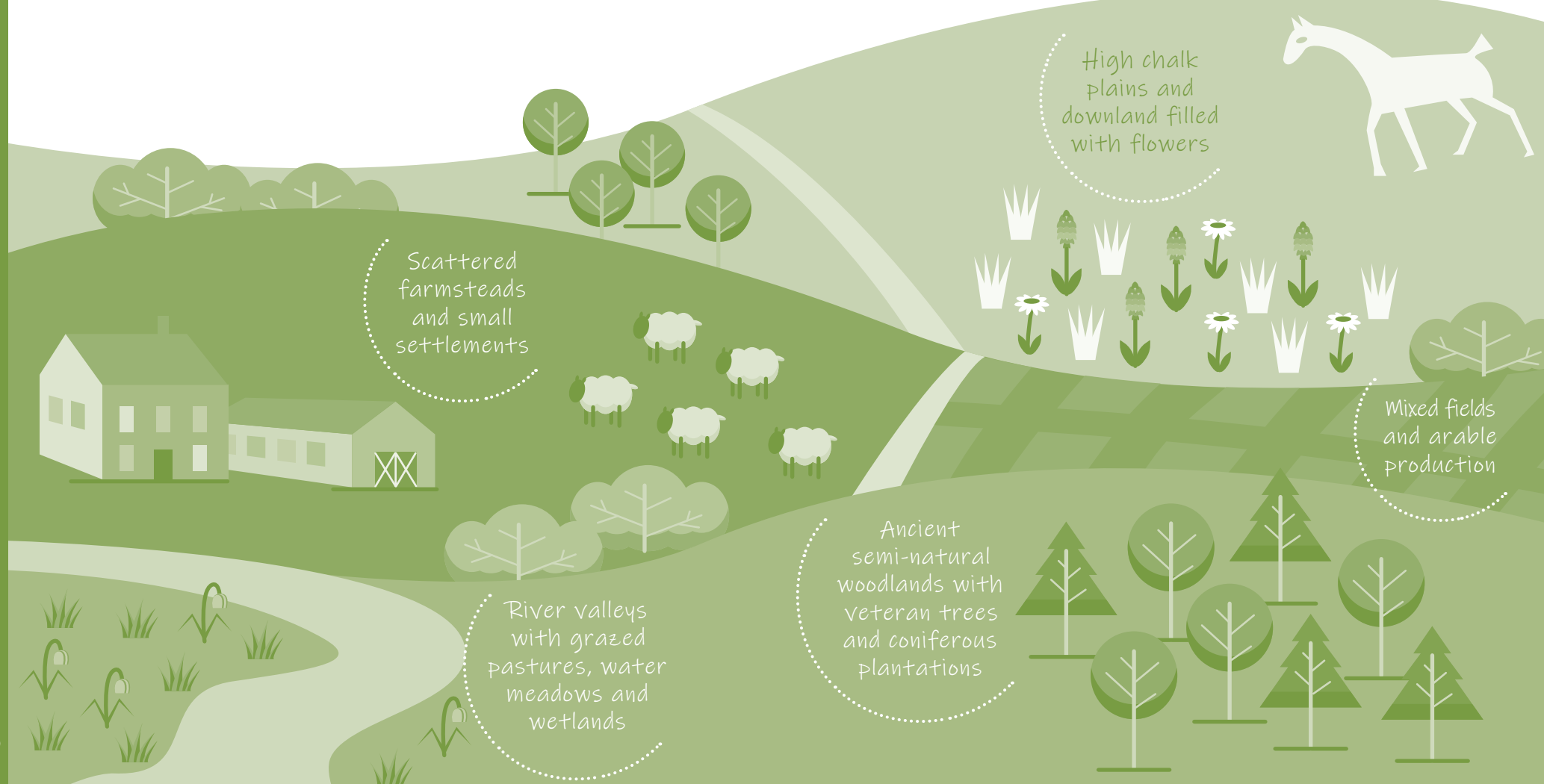
- iii (5 Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000; Section 82.
- iv (6 CRoW Act 2000; Section 92.
- v (7 Countryside Commission (1991) 'Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: A policy statement. CCP 356; p. 5.
- vi (8 Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act, 2006; Section 99.
- vii (9 The European Landscape Convention (ELC) is a treaty of the Council of Europe. The UK's participation in the ELC is unaffected by its withdrawal from the European Union.



Page 15 Horses, X jones; Woodland, X Jones; Birds Directive species, X Jones

theme 1 Landscape

AONB Special Qualities: Landscape



Scattered farmsteads and small settlements

River valleys with grazed pastures, water meadows and wetlands

High chalk plains and downland filled with flowers

Ancient semi-natural woodlands with veteran trees and coniferous plantations

Mixed fields and arable production



gettyimages

Peter Orr Photography

“The slopes of the downs, if they have general form, are continually changing and interchanging in localities, assuming new and strange shapes, charming and surprising with their grace and exquisiteness, forever reflecting the mood of the heavens.”

Alfred Williams (1877–1930)

Walbury Hill in Berkshire is the highest chalk hill in southern England and is topped by an Iron Age fort

The Ridgeway has been in use since prehistoric times and is the oldest road in England

Page 17 Landscape, X Jones

Page 18 Village church, X Jones

Page 19 Geology feature, X Jones



An Ancient Landscape

The North Wessex Downs form a surprisingly remote, expansive and tranquil landscape in the heart of southern England

3.1 The North Wessex Downs is a visibly ancient landscape of great beauty, diversity and size. It embraces the high, open arable sweeps of the chalk downs and dramatic scarp slopes with their prehistoric monuments and beech knolls, the moulded dip slopes, sheltered chalk river valleys; intimate and secluded wooded areas and low-lying heaths with a rich mosaic of woodland, pasture, heath and commons. The North Wessex Downs form a surprisingly remote, expansive and tranquil landscape in the heart of southern England.

3.2 The depth of history can still be seen in these landscapes, including the World Heritage Site of prehistoric Avebury; the royal hunting forest of Savernake, the Uffington White Horse, and the Ridgeway – the oldest road in England. The built environment makes a strong contribution to the beauty of the landscape, with historic towns and villages, churches, spectacular barns, manor houses with their parks and gardens, and the industrial heritage of the Kennet and Avon Canal. The Saxon name of Wessex reveals the area's literary connections, revived by Thomas Hardy and used as the setting for many of his novels. Around a century later, Richard Adams provided a vivid evocation of this area in *Watership Down*.

Geology, Landform and Land Use

3.3 Geology, landform and the uses that humans have made of the land have together created the distinctive and beautiful landscapes of the area. The chalk forms an arc of high ground – the northern, western and southern parts of the AONB, cut through by the Vale of Pewsey to the west, and including, at Walbury Hill, the highest chalk hill in southern England. From this great rim, the land generally falls down the dip slope of the chalk, to the central basin of the east-flowing Rivers Kennet, Lambourn and Pang.

The North Wessex Downs is a visibly ancient landscape of great beauty, diversity and size

3.4 The greater part of the area is underlain by chalk, resulting in the dramatic scarps and beautiful gentle rolling topography so characteristic of the North Wessex Downs. The steep scarp slopes of the chalk and Upper Greensand, with their expansive viewpoints, and the gentle rolling open chalk plateau are very obviously influenced by the underlying geology. These chalk landscapes were traditionally in sheep grazing – the wool being the source of much of England's historic wealth. However, much of the chalk grassland has since been ploughed, and the resulting extensive, open arable land is now the most frequent land use and landscape of the chalk downs. Herb-rich chalk grassland remains in fragments on the steeper scarps.

3.5 Where the chalk has a thick capping of clay-with-flints, the topography is softer, with smaller hedged fields and much greater woodland cover – a very different, enclosed and intimate, landscape from the open sweep of the downs. Overlying the chalk are patches of more recent sediments, particularly in the lower part of the basin. These contrast with the chalk scenery by producing more acidic soils, with their associated heathland landscapes.

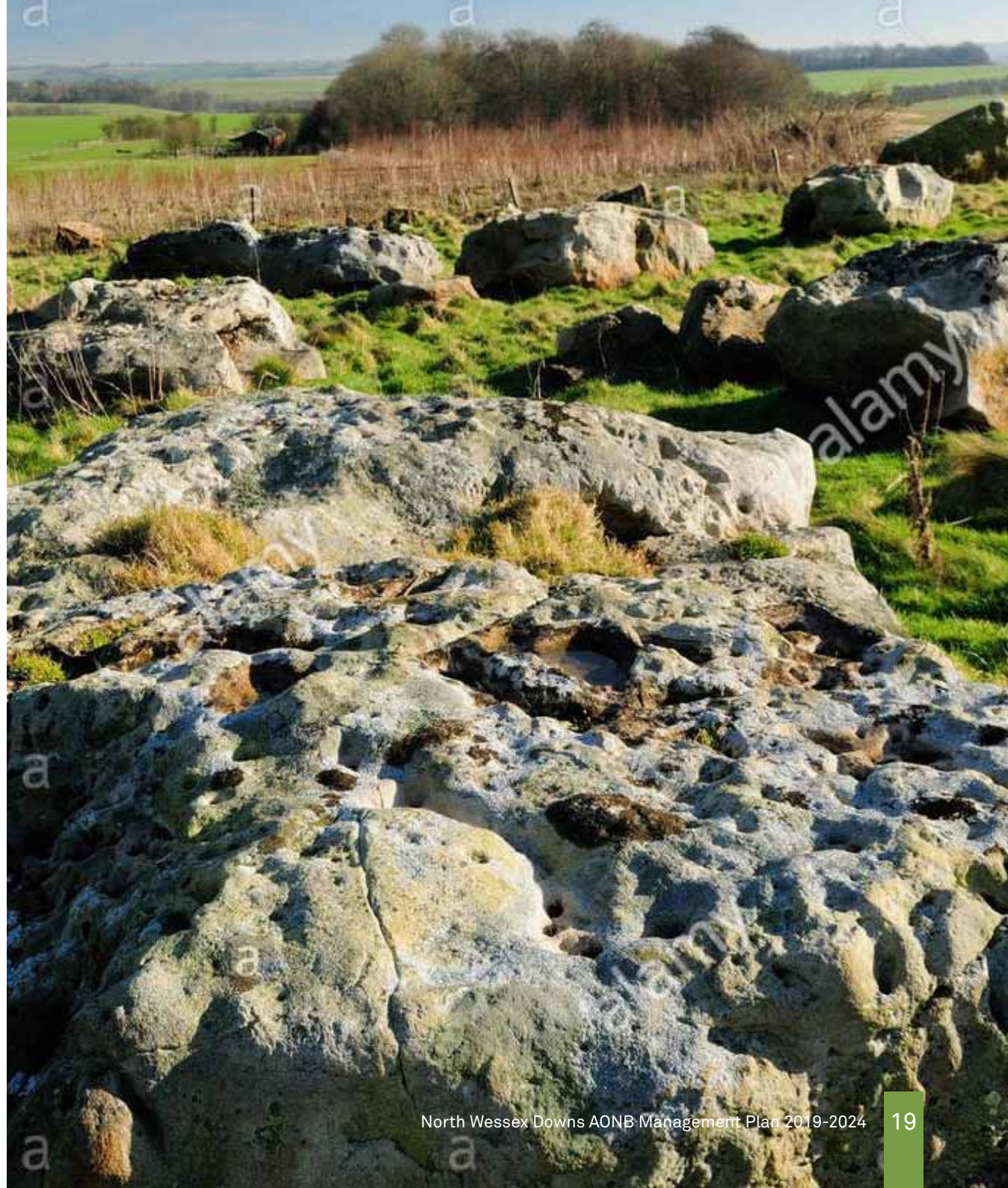
3.6 Some of the more impressive features of the landscape are the dry valleys or coombes, found across the chalk plateau and often forming deep rounded valleys. They are the result of torrents of water flowing over the surface of the chalk during cold periods when permafrost (frozen ground) made the chalk impermeable. The coombes are often associated with terrace features along the valleys, such as those at White Horse Hill in Oxfordshire. These result from the movement downhill of frost-shattered chalk during times of partial thaw. Large amounts of material moving down the slope of the valley can accumulate in the valley bottom, forming a deposit known as head. Sarsen stones are one of the most identifiable and well-known features of the North Wessex Downs, forming the great stone circle and avenues at Avebury and the fields of 'grey wethers' (because they look like sheep) at Fyfield Down. Sarsens are silica-cemented sand or pebble deposits, often moved by natural processes a considerable way from their source.

3.7 Whilst many of the chalk valleys are dry, some have characteristic 'bournes', generally dry, but flowing when the ground water is high. England has 85% of the world's chalk streams and a large proportion of this resource is located within or near the North Wessex Downs. These have a rich and highly characteristic ecology, and frequently support rich biodiversity.

3.8 Settlement is also strongly related to the underlying physical setting. The high, dry chalklands have no water to support settlement, so have remained open, remote, and tranquil, with farmsteads and villages on the spring lines and in the more sheltered and fertile valleys. Traditional building materials include bricks from local clays, flints, Melbourn Rock, Chalk Rock (not the soft chalk), cob, sarsens, thatch, and timber from the forests.

3.9 Designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty recognises the character, value and quality of the North Wessex Downs. The National Planning Policy Framework gives the highest level of protection to the overall diversity of landscape and scenic beauty of the area.ⁱ The North Wessex Downs are of high scenic quality and with their wildlife and cultural heritage an integral part of their character and value. Although almost entirely a chalk landscape, the character differs markedly across the AONB, depending on local surface geology, soils, landform, land use, vegetation and settlement patterns. The greatest contrast, for example, is between the open arable chalk downs and the acid heathlands of the lower river valleys. Natural England has set out a 'landscape character assessment' (LCA) methodology to formally identify what it is that makes one landscape different from another. The landscape character assessment for the North Wessex Downs identifies the overall diversity of the landscape, recognising eight 'Landscape Types' across the AONB, each with its own distinct sense of place. These eight Landscape Types can be further subdivided into 'Landscape Character Areas; there are a total of 33 Character Areas across the AONB. Landscape character assessment draws out the special qualities of the landscape, traces its evolution over the centuries and identifies the main issues that will need to be addressed to conserve its special character and outstanding qualities.

ⁱ (10 Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2018) National Planning Policy Framework; paragraph 172.





Page 20 Bluebell Wood at Savernake Forest, XJones

Page 21 Orchids on chalk downland, XJones

North Wessex Downs AONB Landscape Types

Landscape Type : 1. Open Downland

3.10 The Open Downland forms the backbone of the North Wessex Downs as an elevated plateau of the hard Middle and Upper Chalks. The landscape is of open, smoothly rounded downland dissected by dry valleys and long sinuous steep scarps, and is devoid of surface water. Tree cover is limited to distinctive Beech clumps crowning summits and occasional linear shelter belts.

3.11 This is a remote, tranquil landscape of panoramic views where the sky forms a key part of the landscape, including the effect of cloud shadows on the ground and the wind creating swells through the crops. The dominant land use is of vast sweeping arable fields with small remnant patches of chalk grassland on steeper slopes. Settlement is extremely sparse and limited to scattered farmsteads and racing stables.

Landscape Type : 2. Downland with Woodland

3.12 This landscape is distinctly different from the Open Downland. It is of lower elevation and has a thick capping of clay-with-flints over the chalk. It has softer contours and considerably greater woodland cover.

3.13 The scale is smaller, with field patterns a mixture of small irregular medieval enclosures and larger regular Parliamentary enclosures.

Landscape Type : 3. Wooded Plateau

3.14 Centred on the woodland tracts of Savernake Forest and West Woods, the extent of this largely wooded area reflects the bounds of the medieval royal hunting forest of Savernake, established by the time of the Domesday survey. Throughout this gently dipping plateau, a thick covering of clay-with-flints and Tertiary deposits mask the solid chalk and results in damp and heavy soils.

3.15 Today, the Forest consists of extensive tracts of semi-natural ancient woodland, wood pasture with majestic veteran trees, and 18th and 19th Century Beech plantations, as well as more recent coniferous plantations. Reflecting its origins as a royal hunting forest, the countryside remains undeveloped, with settlement limited to villages in the valley of the River Dun – Great and Little Bedwyn.

Landscape Type : 4. High Chalk Plain

3.16 This is the northernmost tip of Salisbury Plain. The open rolling landform of the Upper Chalk creates a bleak, spacious landscape under arable production and devoid of settlement, with long views and a strong sense of remoteness and isolation.

3.17 A dramatic escarpment forms the northern boundary, as at Pewsey Hill and Fyfield Down, and provides panoramic views across the Vale of Pewsey to the north.

Landscape Type : 5. Downs Plain and Scarp

3.18 The landscape of the Downs Plain and Scarp extends along the entire length of the northern boundary of the North Wessex

Downs. The plain is formed by the eroded surface of the Lower Chalk, creating a low level surface extending as a wide ledge at the foot of the high Open Downland. The distinctive northern scarp plunges down from the chalk plain to the Vale of White Horse, creating a dramatic recognisable horizon when viewed from the north.

3.19 This area is characterised by some of the most emblematic features of the North Wessex Downs: The Ridgeway, the oldest road in England – running along the top of the scarp; the Uffington White Horse on the scarp face; and Avebury on the open Downs Plain, forming part of the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site.

3.20 The Downs Plain is characterised by vast arable fields, lack of surface water and a general absence of settlement. Conversely the dramatic scarp slope, cut by springs, creates a convoluted edge alternately under woodland and pasture, including significant areas of remnant chalk grassland. This is a landscape that feels as though it has hardly changed over the centuries, although it is increasingly affected by development at its foot, outside the AONB boundary.

Landscape Type : 6. Vales

3.21 The Vale of Pewsey separates the two main upland chalk blocks that dominate the North Wessex Downs. The towering shapes of the adjacent chalk scarps contain and enclose this Greensand vale. Numerous springs issue from the chalk and Greensand boundary where the water table comes to the surface, their streams meandering across the Vale floor.

3.22 Rich loamy and alluvial soils create a productive agricultural landscape with a mix of arable, orchards and pasture now replacing a once predominantly pastoral scene important for dairying – hence the saying ‘chalk and cheese’, identifying the very different landscapes of the downs and the vale. The concentration of settlements is a defining feature of the Vale, including compact nucleated villages and hamlets, with widespread scattered farmsteads. The Vales character type also occurs at the north-eastern edge of the North Wessex Downs, with the sections of the Thames valley floor that lie within this AONB. The eastern part of the Thames valley floor here lies within the adjoining Chilterns AONB.

Landscape Type : 7. River Valleys

3.23 The chalk rivers that cut through the chalk uplands form very distinct linear landscapes, characterised by a rich mix of grazed pastures, water meadows, wetland and woodland. The valleys are enclosed by steeply rising slopes, limiting views and creating an intimate and enclosed character.

3.24 Historically, the main settlements of the chalk were concentrated in these river valleys, as the only source of accessible water in an otherwise dry downland landscape. These settlements took a long linear form, following the bottom of the valley, and this remains the dominant pattern to this day. The chalk uplands (in other character areas) are also cut by numerous dry valleys, which sometimes contain ephemeral ‘winterbournes’ only flowing when the chalk water table rises to the surface during the winter and early spring.

Landscape Type : 8. Lowland Mosaic

3.25 This is the lowest part of the ‘bowl’, curving around Newbury and the lower Kennet valley. This landscape, of largely Medieval origins has a varied geology of clays, silts and sands giving rise to a diverse mix of soils and, in turn, a mosaic of ancient semi-natural woodlands, plantations, remnant heathland and more open farmland areas.

3.26 This is a small-scale and intimate landscape, where lanes are frequently overhung by deep grassy and wooded banks, heightening the sense of seclusion. There are some limited longer views, as at Bucklebury Upper Common. The network of ancient semi-natural woodland, connecting hedgerows, areas of parkland, including wood pasture and veteran trees, create considerable ecological interest.

3.27 Former Medieval deer parks are a particular feature, as at Englefield, Highclere and Hampstead, with a number of these having been re-fashioned in the 18th Century as formal designed landscapes. This is one of the most densely inhabited areas of the North Wessex Downs, with large manor houses, a network of hamlets, and lines of houses and villages that have grown along the network of lanes.

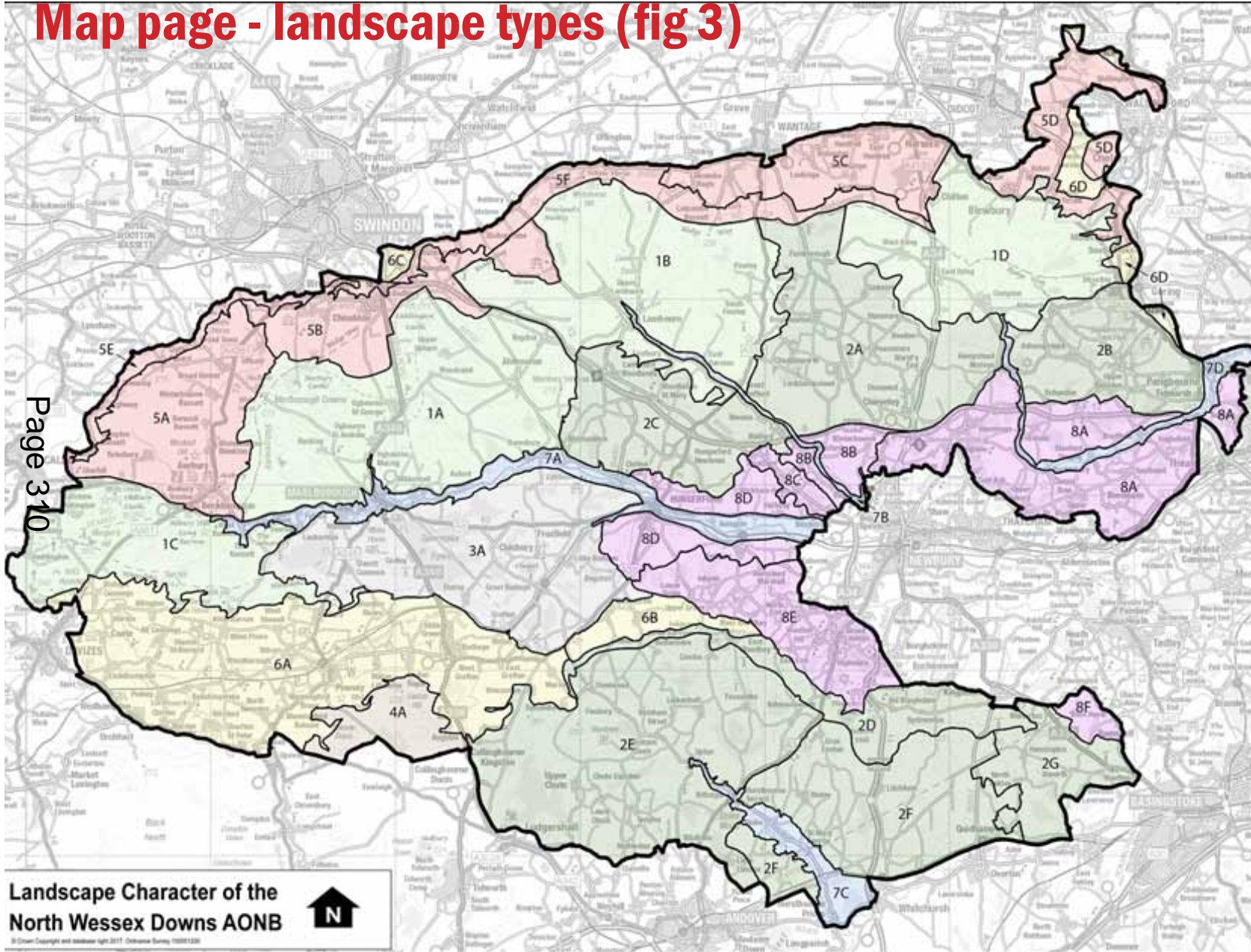
Savernake Forest

is a medieval royal hunting forest, established before the Domesday survey

Avebury *on the open Downs Plain forms part of the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site*



Map page - landscape types (fig 3)



KEY

- 1. Open Downland**
 - 1A - Marlborough Downs
 - 1B - Lambourn Downs
 - 1C - Horton Downs
 - 1D - Blewbury Downs
 - 2. Woodland with Downland**
 - 2A - Brightwalton Downs
 - 2B - Ashmolestead Downs
 - 2C - Lambourn Wooded Downs
 - 2D - Walbury Hill - Watership Down Scarp
 - 2E - Chute Forest - Faccombe
 - 2F - Litchfield Downs
 - 2G - Hannington Downs
 - 3. Wooded Plateau**
 - 3A - Savemake Plateau
 - 4. High Chalk Plain**
 - 4A - Salisbury Plain
 - 5. Downs Plain and Scarp**
 - 5A - Avebury Plain
 - 5B - Chiseldon - Warborough Plain
 - 5C - Hendred Plain
 - 5D - Moreton Plain
 - 5E - Cliffe Pypard - Badbury Wooded Scarp
 - 5F - Liffington - Latcombe Open Scarp
 - 6. Vales**
 - 6A - Vale of Pewsey
 - 6B - Shalborne Vale
 - 6C - Wanborough Vale
 - 6D - Thames Floodplain - Benson
 - 6E - Thames Floodplain - Moreton
 - 6F - Thames Floodplain - Stratley and Basildon
 - 7. River Valleys**
 - 7A - Kennet Valley
 - 7B - Lambourn Valley
 - 7C - Bourne Valley
 - 7D - Pang Valley
 - 8. Lowland Mosaic**
 - 8A - Heritage Wooded Commons
 - 8B - Winterbourne Fairland
 - 8C - Wickham Wooded Heath
 - 8D - Hungerford Fairland
 - 8E - Highclere Parklands
 - 8F - Ewturst Parklands
- AONB Boundary

AONB Special Qualities: the Landscape

- 3.28 **Open Downland** extending from Roundway Down near Devizes to Lardon Chase overlooking the Thames at Streatley is dissected by dry valleys and long steep scarps, with limited tree cover and sense of remoteness and tranquillity.
- 3.29 **Downland with Woodland** on the dipslope descending to Kennet Valley and south across the Hampshire Downs; offering softer contours, woodland cover and a mix of field patterns.
- 3.30 Centred on Savernake Forest and West Woods, the **Wooded Plateau** consists of extensive tracts of semi-natural ancient woodland, wood pasture with majestic veteran trees, and 18th and 19th Century Beech plantations, as well as more recent coniferous plantations.
- 3.31 At the northernmost tip of Salisbury Plain, the open rolling landform of the **High Chalk Plain** creates a bleak, spacious landscape under arable production and devoid of settlement, with long views and a strong sense of remoteness and isolation.
- 3.32 The distinctive northern **Downs Plain and Scarp** plunges down from the chalk plain to the Vale of White Horse, creating a dramatic recognisable horizon.
- 3.33 The **Vales** of Pewsey and sections of the Thames Valley floor adjoining the Chilterns AONB offer productive loamy and alluvial soils where springs issue from the chalk and compact settlements contrast with scattered farmsteads.
- 3.34 The **River Valleys** of the Kennet, Lambourn, Pang and Bourne form very distinct linear landscapes, characterised by a rich mix of grazed pastures, water meadows, wetland and woodland. Steeply rising slopes create an intimate and enclosed character.
- 3.35 The **Lowland Mosaic**, curving around Newbury and the lower Kennet valley has a varied geology of clays, silts and sands giving rise to a diverse mix of soils and, in turn, a

mosaic of ancient semi-natural woodlands, plantations, remnant heathland and more open farmland areas where sunken lanes heighten the sense of seclusion.

The Landscape: Key Issues, AONB Strategic Objectives and Policies

The North Wessex Downs landscape faces a range of challenges which this Plan will address through the implementation of key objectives and policies

3.38 Key Issues

Key issues with the potential to have significant influence on the AONB's Landscape Special Qualities:

- a) The potential for development beyond the AONB boundary to visually damage or undermine the scale and critical qualities of landscape character areas.
- b) Managing the Ridgeway National Trail and other rights of way to maximise enjoyment by responsible users protect wildlife and cultural heritage and minimise conflicts.
- c) The need to maintain and, where possible, extend chalk grassland habitat.
- d) The need to conserve and enhance the remoteness and expansive open scale of the downland landscape.
- e) The need for viable agriculture and forestry to continue to contribute to AONB purposes.
- f) Availability of sufficient resources for management and understanding of archaeological sites.
- g) The need to conserve and enhance the remote, secluded and relatively undeveloped character of more enclosed and intimate landscapes, including the character of the lanes.
- h) The need for appropriate woodland management, including the viable use of timber products, particularly for fuel.



Page 25 Key issue images viable agriculture, X Jones; Archaeological resources, X Jones; Woodland management, X Jones



- i) Encouraging restoration of wood pasture landscapes, husbandry and ecology and ensuring future veteran tree succession.
- j) The dominance of roads, in particular the impact of traffic noise, external lighting, road signs, insensitive materials and clutter on landscape character and people's experience of the landscape as they travel through it.
- k) The need to maintain the pattern of discrete villages set within a quiet rural landscape and ensuring that the views to the surrounding dramatic scarps are undamaged.
- l) The need to ensure continued improvement of water quality and water resources in rivers, supporting river managers and riparian landowners in river restoration and enhancement projects for fisheries and wildlife.
- m) The need to maintain and enhance adjacent seasonal flood meadows, grazed pastures, fen, damp woodlands and historic parkland.
- n) The need to conserve and enhance the small-scale, secluded and rural character of the lowland mosaic, including the fragile lowland heaths.
- o) Intense pressure for development throughout the AONB and its setting that threatens the character and quality of its landscape and risks merging of small settlements, encroachment by larger settlements and changes to the scale and nature of development boundaries.
- p) The need to protect and enhance historic sites, buildings and landscapes and their setting.
- q) The significant impact on the characteristic habitats in the AONB resulting from climate change, including increased extreme weather events and a potential increase in pests and diseases.

Page 24 Downland view, X Jones

Page 25 River, X Jones; Flooding, X Jones

3.39 AONB Strategic Objectives for 2019-2024: the Landscape

S.01 Maintain and enhance the tranquillity and distinctive landscape character of the North Wessex Downs and its setting with a focus on the contribution from agriculture and forestry, development and infrastructure.

S.02 Promote understanding, appreciation and participation in the AONB by local communities, visitors and those making decisions affecting its distinctive character.



Extreme weather events due to climate change will have a significant impact on the habitats of the Downs

Development pressure threatens the character and quality of the AONB landscape

3.40 AONB Policies: the Landscape

LA 01	Encourage all partners and other stakeholders to have regard for AONB purposes across all relevant policies, programmes and activities.
LA 02	Seek to identify and address the main factors that threaten the special qualities of the AONB landscape: e.g. water abstraction, agricultural practices including diffuse pollution of watercourses; lack of woodland management; damage to historic sites, built development.
LA 03	Use the North Wessex Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment to inform policy and decision making across the AONB and its setting.
LA 04	Support and promote good practice across all sectors that conserves and enhances the character and qualities of the North Wessex Downs landscape.
LA 05	Support and encourage efforts to conserve and explain the rich heritage of the North Wessex Downs, including archaeological sites.
LA 06	Ensure that all development in or affecting the setting of the AONB conserves and enhances the character, qualities and heritage of the North Wessex Downs landscape.
LA 07	Raise the policy profile of the North Wessex Downs locally, regionally and nationally to secure the co-ordination and resourcing of policies and programmes for the benefit of the AONB.

Rural Land Management

illustration - including tractors, forestry,
horseriding, small fields/mixed fields, hedgerows,
arable production, farmsteads, fishing/field sport



“I like to look at the winding side of a great down, with two or three numerous flocks of sheep on it, belonging to different farms; and to see, lower down, the folds, in the fields, ready to receive them for the night.”

William Cobbett (1763-1835)

84% of the Downs is classified as farmland; about 48% of this was under arable cultivation in 2017

12.4% of the total AONB area is woodland, just over a third of which is Ancient Woodland



A Working Landscape

Land-based enterprises play a significant role in acting as stewards of the landscape and contributing to economic balance

Agriculture

4.1 Farmland and woodland dominates the landscape of the North Wessex Downs. Changes in these land uses have a major influence on the natural beauty of the area. Land-based enterprises play a significant role in acting as stewards of the landscape and contributing to an economic balance for communities. Additionally, equine activities and field sports are significant in terms of land use and management.

4.2 With 84% of the North Wessex Downs classified as farmland (of which in 2017 about 48% was under arable cultivation), agriculture is the dominant land use and the major influence on landscape character and quality. The agricultural workforce totalled 2,426 which amounted to 4.9% of the actively employed people in the AONB (2011 Census). This appears to be a decline from 5.9% (reported in 2005), but remains a relatively high proportion compared with the average of 1.3% for South East England.

4.3 Annual farm census statistics since 1990 indicate land in the AONB in agricultural management appears to be fairly stable, with a slight net loss over time. This could be due to development but also changes in holding distributions may represent a move to other land uses not classified as agricultural. The total number of farms is also falling. The highest proportion of farms are over 100 ha, a number that has steadily increased over the last decade. DEFRA defines farm types for a holding as the crop or livestock enterprise (or group of enterprises) that contributes more than two thirds of the total standard gross margin for the holding. The North Wessex Downs have quite large areas of Grade 1 and 2 agricultural land, a high proportion of which is put down to potatoes and field scale

Farmland and woodland dominates the landscape of the North Wessex Downs

vegetables around the Pewsey Vale. Data from Natural England's 2018 'Provisional Agricultural Land Classification' indicates that most farms fall in the 'cereals' and 'lowland grazing livestock' categories.

4.4 Profitable agriculture can sustain the natural resources that have created rich diversity and natural beauty of the North Wessex Downs. Support for a sustainable farming sector is an important means of securing landscape management, as demonstrated through the North Wessex Downs Partnership support for initiatives such as the EU-supported rural development programme, 'Leader' (*Liaison entre actions de développement rural*).

4.5 Previous analysis of trends indicated a decline in livestock farming and greater sensitivity of arable production to prices of inputs. As with other sectors, consolidation will lead to larger farms and larger herd sizes to seek increases in efficiency. There have also been positive changes driven by the implementation of targeted agri-environment schemes.

4.6 A series of reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy have introduced an increasing emphasis on wildlife conservation through 'agri-environment' schemes and there is a strong commitment by farmers in the North Wessex Downs to utilise these schemes to support farmland bird populations, to protect and enhance habitats and to safeguard protect soil and water resources. The de-coupling of support payments from production has required farmers to respond more readily to world market conditions. Fluctuations in commodity prices and input costs are making future arable profitability hard to predict. There is a risk that such market influences could thwart initiatives designed to improve natural resource protection and environmental enhancement. An example in the North Wessex Downs has been the difficulty in promoting arable reversion to chalk grassland under higher-level stewardship schemes in the light of fluctuating, and occasionally very high, cereal prices. Issues concerning animal movement and the loss of skilled graziers compound this.

4.7 Added to the drive for sustainability, food security and low-carbon energy is the uncertainty introduced by the UK's decision to withdraw from the European Union. The Government's stated ambition, once outside the Common Agricultural Policy, is to promote 'a more dynamic, more self-reliant agricultural industry' and 'a reformed agricultural and land management policy' which will remain 'internationally competitive' and supply 'products of the highest standards to the domestic market' while 'increasing exports'. The impact that measures outlined in the 'Health and Harmony' consultation, or the introduction of a proposed new environmental land management system might have on the farming community in the North Wessex Downs cannot be predicted. A new farming support system based on "public money for public goods" supported by a ministerial view that "the most important public good we should pay for is environmental protection and enhancement" could benefit the AONB, particularly when farmers work collaboratively to provide benefits for wildlife, access to the countryside and resource protection at landscape scale. Alongside the policy and market incentives, climate change is likely to be a key consideration in terms of the types and varieties of viable crops that are grown in on the North Wessex Downs. There are implications for sowing dates, irrigation, pests, diseases, water availability and soil erosion. Increased productivity needs careful management to maintain landscape character and the opportunity to expand wildlife habitats. There may also be diversification into novel crops and farming systems or change of use from agriculture to other land uses, such as equestrian businesses and leisure.

Forestry

4.8 The Forestry Commission's National Forest Inventory data show that the area of woodland within the North Wessex Downs has increased by 656ha over seven years and stands at 21,475ha (12.4% of the total AONB area). Just under a half of this woodland has some form of wildlife designation and a little over a third is Ancient Woodland. Broadleaf trees dominate, at just under 70% of all woodland. Despite an increasingly healthy market for timber and woodfuel, many woodlands in the AONB still suffer from a lack of management, often due to difficulties accessing the woodlands. The ageing beech woodlands no longer produce



Page 27 Farmland, X Jones
Page 28 Woodland management, X Jones
Page 29 Farmland across the Downs, X Jones

significant volumes of timber and are more valuable as places for recreation than as a productive part of the rural economy. The continued promotion of wood as a renewable fuel may stimulate improved management of some woodlands.

4.9 The National Forest Inventory shows that woodland within the AONB recorded as being managed has increased from 50% in 2013 to 62% in 2017. This is a positive change which probably reflects the increasing demand for woodfuel in particular. The timber quality of much of the woodland area within the AONB is not high; many of the woodlands are extremely small; a number of the woodlands comprise crops for which there is no longer a viable market. Consequently, the economics of forestry operations are problematic. There is a role for energy production in helping to manage small woodlands and partners have made progress in supporting the forestry sector through initiatives such as the EU-supported 'Leader' programme, ahead of an anticipated rise in demand for wood fuel and associated products.



4.10 The priority is to maintain and improve management of existing woodlands. Any new woodland should meet the objectives of the North Wessex Downs AONB Woodland Strategy. This values woodland designated for their nature conservation interest, and all ancient and semi-natural woodland. New woodlands can act as a buffer to protect this resource and create wildlife corridors between woodlands, and which may in turn benefit natural flood management and water quality. The AONB Partnership encourages woodland owners to produce management plans in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard and will promote the accreditation of woodlands under the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Scheme.

4.11 The dangers to woodland from pests and diseases are growing, with 'ash dieback' (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*, also known as 'Chalara') and oak processionary moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*) being two recent examples. Ash dieback is likely to have a major impact in woodlands across England, including in the North Wessex Downs, and it will be prudent to consider promoting measures to mitigate the consequences of the loss of this important tree species for wildlife and the landscape. Damage to woodlands from increasing deer populations or from squirrels is an ever-increasing problem, especially since it makes growing native broadleaved trees for timber difficult in spite of strong market demand. This highlights the need for the collaborative landscape-scale protection of our woodlands. The North Wessex Downs Partnership is working with the Forestry Commission and woodland owners and operators to raise awareness and, where appropriate, prevent or mitigate the effects of activity.

4.12 Climate change may lead to drought and lower summer rainfall. This is likely to affect the North Wessex Downs woodlands. For example, the shallow rooting beech does not thrive on dry soils and is likely to decline but small-leaved lime needs warmth to set seed and will probably increase. Veteran trees of all species are more likely to be felled by storm force winds. However, in woods the impact of these storms can be positive, creating glades that species adapted to sunlight can occupy. The recreational value may increase as people seek shade in the hottest months.

Horse Industry

4.13 Horse owning and riding is a popular activity across the South of England and the North Wessex Downs is recognised as a nationally important horse-racing centre, second only to Newmarket. The equestrian sector is estimated to have contributed £4.3 billion of consumer spending to the national economy in 2015 (an increase from £3.8bn in 2011).ⁱ Owners of horses have an important role to play in maintaining the natural beauty of the North Wessex Downs. How horses are cared for and the developments associated with keeping and training horses can have a significant impact on the character and quality of the AONB landscape.

4.14 The North Wessex Downs is home to a range of important non-racing equestrian events, such as the annual Barbury Horse Trials. While there are no statistics to quantify horse ownership and riding in the AONB it is evident that the network of bridleways and routes linked to The Ridgeway National Trail are popular and well-used. A recent survey valued the non-racing horse industry in Hampshire at £313 million per annum to the Hampshire economy. A guide has been published in collaboration with Protected Landscapes in the South Westⁱⁱ to provide advice aimed at ensuring equine care and management makes a positive contribution to the landscape.

4.15 The Lambourn area and other racing yards in the AONB make a significant contribution to the local economy. Core horseracing businesses employ an equivalent of 1,370 full-time staff (just over 20% of employment in the agriculture and entertainment sectors in the AONB). A survey has identified 103 businesses within the area directly involved and a further 49 businesses associated with the racing industry in 2007. The horseracing industry contributes between £16-38 million per annum of direct GVA to the local economy.

Field Sports

4.16 The rise of large-scale commercial shooting in recent years has had a significant influence on the landscape, especially in the downland. Much of the management of some small-scale woodland has been motivated by shooting whilst the downs and valleys, notably the steep scarps, provides an ideal landscape for

partridge shooting. This has led to the planting of large blocks of maize cover crop and complemented grant-aided conservation plots such as wild birdseed mix. Shooting brings in substantial income, employment and revenue to local businesses within the rural economy, and is thus beneficial to the area. However, changes to the landscape may be viewed with mixed opinions, although the management of land for shooting brings significant wider benefits to wildlife in general.

4.17 Fly fishing is also an important feature of the AONB, especially the world famous chalk streams such as the Kennet and Lambourn. The income from let fishing helps to support the conservation and restoration of these rivers.

- i new ref British Equestrian Trade Association. National Equestrian Survey 2015. <http://www.beta-uk.org/pages/industry-information/market-information.php>.
- ii (11 South West Protected Landscapes Forum 'Horses, the landscape and you: Equestrian guide to keeping horses in protected landscapes.'



£16-38 million per annum is contributed to the AONB's local economy by the horse-racing industry

Shooting has become popular in recent years, bringing in substantial revenue for the rural economy

Page 30 Horse racing, X Jones
Page 31 Fly fishing, X Jones; Partridge, X Jones





Page 32 Brown trout, X Jones

Page 33 Barn owl over farmland, X Jones

AONB Special Qualities: Rural Land Management

- 4.18 A landscape under the influence of **agricultural management** with typically large farmed estates, a high proportion of which are engaged in agri-environment agreements.
- 4.19 **Varied field patterns**; the open downlands are characterised by large regular fields, largely the product of 18th Century parliamentary enclosure, with more recent boundary removals creating vast fields, as on the Marlborough Downs. By contrast, the Vale of Pewsey in the south west of the AONB is the product of Medieval clearance which created numerous, small, irregularly-shaped fields or assarts.
- 4.20 Stock fencing and extant **hedgerows** in the vales and river valleys containing some mature trees.
- 4.21 A growing forestry sector and different **types of woodland**, many with public access. Although oak and ash are the main forest canopy species there is a wide range of stand types including hornbeam coppice, oak/ash stands, hazel/oak stands, and birch and ash/wych elm coppice.
- 4.22 **Equestrian activity**, including the 'Valley of the Racehorse' in the Lambourn area that attracts visitors and businesses.
- 4.23 Significant land management for **field sports**, including highly valued game fishing which supports the native brown trout.

Rural Land Management: Key Issues, AONB Strategic Objectives and Policies

Rural land management in the North Wessex Downs faces a range of challenges which this Plan will address through the implementation of key objectives and policies

4.24 Key Issues

Key issues with the potential to have significant influence on the AONB's Rural Land Management Special Qualities:

- a) The need to manage resources to achieve sustainable consumption and production.
- b) Potential for significant investment of public funding to promote diversification and micro-enterprise in the land management sector which align with AONB objectives.
- c) Potential for farmers to work collaboratively to enhance the delivery of public goods and services.

4.25 Agriculture

- d) Effect of the UK withdrawal from the European Union, in particular opportunities which could arise to invest in the conservation and enhancement of the AONB, for example through an alternative environmental land management measures to deliver public goods with public funds.
- e) Market forces and major policy changes, such as demand for increased food security or biofuels, resulting in uncertainty regarding land management, influencing the mix of farming types and farm sizes.
- f) Impacts of changes in farming technology and energy prices.
- g) Shortage of livestock needed to graze downland pasture.
- h) Harnessing demand for locally produced food and drink in line

with AONB objectives, with increasing interest in producing and marketing local food in the North Wessex Downs.

- i) Climate change risk (increasingly identified by farmers in the North Wessex Downs as a key threat and opportunity for the future) and the opportunities for land managers to invest in climate change adaptation and to mitigation.
- j) Potential for improved co-ordination and consistency in the provision of agricultural land management advice to achieve AONB objectives.
- k) Poor agricultural land management practices, including livestock grazing and arable production, resulting in detrimental impacts on watercourses from nutrient run-off and silt pollution as a result of livestock damage to river banks.

4.26 Forestry

Scope for more and better management of woodland in the AONB, especially smaller woods, to improve habitat for wildlife and provide an economic return.

Risk of harmful impacts on wildlife, archaeology and recreation from increasing exploitation of woodland to meet demand for timber, if not done in an environmentally sensitive way.

- n) Opportunities for better co-ordination of forestry with agricultural land management under new environmental management schemes.
- o) Widespread threats from pests and disease (e.g. Phytophthora and Chalara).
- p) Rising deer numbers inhibiting the natural regeneration of some woodland. Deer Management Groups are helpful but are insufficient on their own to control deer numbers.

4.27 Horse Industry

- q) Small-scale changes to the smooth, rolling landform around new buildings, which cumulatively have an adverse effect on the character of the AONB.

- r) Opportunities to support the racing industry, ancillary businesses and local communities through diversification, e.g. in responsible tourism.
- s) Need to avoid the Loss of biodiversity arising from the creation of new fields and paddocks on open chalk downland by promoting opportunities for landscape enhancement through equine habitat management, such as creation of wildflower-rich grassland.
- t) Change in landscape character by the replacement of hedgerows with fencing, leading to the ‘suburbanisation’ of landscape.
- u) Pressure to widen and straighten minor roads to improve vehicle access leading to ‘suburbanisation’ and loss of sense of place.
- v) Loss of integrity of historic settlements/hamlets/farmsteads.

4.28 AONB Strategic Objectives for 2019-2024: Rural Land Management

- S.03 Focus, facilitate and support landscape-scale conservation and land management initiatives that support the purposes of AONB designation.
- S.04 Promote AONB priorities for targeting and investment in rural land management and development to take advantage of changes anticipated to follow the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union.
- S.05 Support the restoration of ancient woodland and wood pasture, improved management of unmanaged and under-managed woodland across the North Wessex Downs, promoting multiple benefits, including landscape character, wildlife, local economy and skills, recreation and climate change mitigation.
- S.06 Support traditional and emerging land-based enterprises and their markets that respect and promote the special qualities of the North Wessex Downs and its setting.

Food security

changes due to market forces may influence the mix of farming types and farm sizes

Demand for timber

may drive woodland exploitation and threaten wildlife, archaeology and recreation





Page 34 Conservation headland, X Jones; Traditional sheep breed, X Jones; Wetland work, X Jones

Page 35 Lapwing on farmland, X Jones

4.29 AONB Policies: Rural Land Management

RLM 01	Encourage national, regional and local land management policies to be consistent with the purpose of AONB designation.
RLM 02	Encourage and support joint working and expansion/replication of existing landscape-scale conservation and land management projects, both within and beyond the AONB, to assist in the delivery of AONB objectives.
RLM 03	Support sustainable farm diversification and multi-purpose woodland management where it achieves AONB objectives and accords with planning policy.
RLM 04	Support efforts to identify future land use options that are best able to assist farm viability and reflect the environmental objectives of the AONB.
RLM 05	Support local markets for local produce and the development of local supply networks.
RLM 06	Encourage management of sites in public and tenanted ownership within the North Wessex Downs to be examples of best practice in the delivery of AONB objectives.
RLM 07	Support and promote efforts across the North Wessex Downs to reduce invasive, non-native species or unsustainable populations of species where these threaten the biodiversity and sustainable management of woodland, watercourses and other habitats.
RLM 08	Encourage the active and environmentally sensitive use of woodland resources for viable products, helping to enhance biodiversity.
RLM 09	Support and help guide publicly funded investment in rural development.
RLM 10	Support investment in new agricultural infrastructure and redevelopment of farm buildings where it increases the sustainability of local businesses and aligns with AONB purposes.
RLM 11	Encourage awareness of the special qualities of the AONB among local businesses to help them understand and embrace their responsibilities alongside running a profitable enterprise.
RLM 12	Support improved co-ordination and consistency in provision of land management advice across the AONB.
RLM 13	Support efforts to identify and develop the skills required to care for the landscape and its special qualities, with opportunities for all to acquire such skills.
RLM 14	Encourage and support the local provision of practical training in traditional land management and the skills necessary to deliver enhanced rural land management and business diversification with clear landscape benefits.
RLM 15	Encourage good agricultural land management practices and adherence to good practice to contribute to resource protection, such as safeguarding watercourses from nutrient run-off and silt pollution.
RLM 16	Support the provision of advice on integrated management of grassland to enhance biodiversity as part of equine land management practices.
RLM 17	Support initiatives to achieve sustainable deer populations across the AONB through collaborative measures and partnerships among landowners and other stakeholders.

Future Land Management Support: Priorities for Funding and Advice by Landscape Character Type

4.30 The national family of AONBs has proposed that AONB Management Plans should serve as the framework within which future publicly and privately funded support mechanisms and other land management initiatives can be focussed and adapted to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the designated landscapes and their settings.

4.31 The priorities set out in the following Table (pages 25-27) identify broad priorities for environmental land management in the North Wessex Downs AONB and its setting. More detailed guidance, covering for example desired outputs and prescriptions where necessary, based on reliable evidence and applicable to

individual Landscape Character Areas, will be required once the land management support arrangements to succeed the EU's Common Agricultural Policy have been defined.

4.32 The first column in the Table sets out a series of generic measures which could apply to more than one Landscape Type; subsequent columns set out measures which are aimed specifically at each of the eight Landscape Types (as described in Chapter 3).

Table 1: Priorities for future rural land management support to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB by Landscape Type

Generic aims applicable to more than one Landscape Type in the AONB

Support a landscape-scale approach to restoring, managing, buffering, extending and connecting currently fragmented, locally characteristic habitats. These include species-rich chalk grassland, arable field margins, wet pasture and native riparian woodland in river valleys, remnant heathland and common land, chalk rivers and streams, ancient woodland (especially Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites) and wood pasture.

Protect archaeological sites and features, including through removal from cultivation, reducing cultivation depth, scrub management, sympathetic woodland management and protection from livestock damage as necessary.

Adopt catchment-sensitive farming techniques across chalk river and stream catchments to reduce both diffuse and point-source pollution, minimise sediment run-off into watercourses and improve water quality.

Restore and maintain a coherent network of habitat corridors through sympathetic management of, in particular, the huge ecological resource represented by road verges and banks, public rights of way and national trails across the AONB, harnessing their potential to form links between wildlife sites and other important habitat patches.

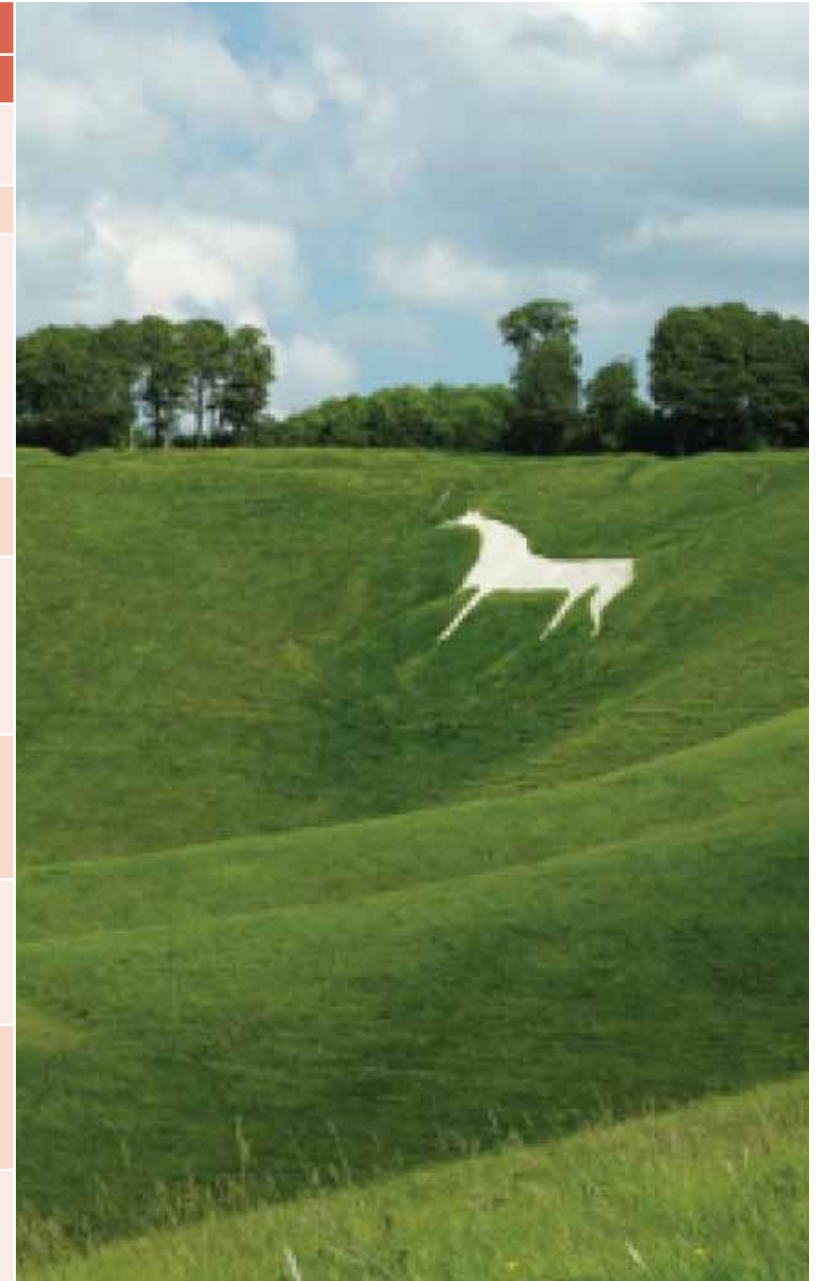
Facilitate responsible public access to the landscape in places and in ways that are compatible with maintaining the special qualities of the AONB.

Encourage and support more wildlife-friendly management of public and private open spaces, including recreation, sports and school grounds, parks, playgrounds, greens, allotments and commons.



Table 1 continued: Priorities for future rural land management support to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB by Landscape Type

Aims specific to AONB Landscape Types
OPEN DOWNLAND
Restore unmanaged relict grassland and encourage greater diversity through sympathetic management.
Maintain existing chalk grassland habitats.
Maintain and enhance the value of arable land and chalk grassland for priority farmland bird and arable plant species e.g. through spring sowing and winter stubbles, nesting plots, uncropped headlands, unsprayed field margins, pollen, nectar and seed mixes. Create and maintain wildlife corridors (e.g. buffer strips, beetle banks, track and byway verges), wherever possible linking a range of different habitats.
Increase the diversity of semi-improved permanent grassland, especially where adjacent or close to unimproved grassland.
Extend, link and buffer chalk grassland habitats e.g. through targeted arable reversion (linking existing grassland areas along ridgelines in particular), wildflower restoration of semi-improved grassland, scrub management and removal of inappropriate woodland planting.
Maintain the open, expansive, open landscape character by avoiding new tree and hedge planting, including small areas which can cumulatively erode the special qualities of openness and sweeping views.
Protect archaeological sites and features, including through removal from cultivation, reducing cultivation depth, scrub management and protection from livestock damage as necessary.
Wherever possible create and maintain wildlife corridors (e.g. buffer strips, track and byway verges) across intensively managed arable and grassland, linking a range of different habitats including unimproved grassland and woodland.
Support specific advice and options for sympathetic management of land used to keep and train racehorses to enhance its value for wildlife.



Aims specific to AONB Landscape Types

DOWNLAND WITH WOODLAND

Maintain the traditional pattern of field boundaries through sympathetic hedge management, restoration of historic hedge boundaries, creation of buffer strips and promotion and management of hedgerow trees.

Restore unmanaged relict grassland and encourage greater diversity through sympathetic management such as controlled grazing.

Maintain existing chalk grassland habitats.

Increase the diversity of semi-improved permanent grassland, especially where adjacent or close to unimproved grassland.

Maintain and enhance the value of arable land and chalk grassland for priority farmland bird and arable plant species (e.g. through spring sowing and winter stubbles, nesting plots, uncropped headlands, unsprayed field margins, pollen, nectar and seed mixes). Create and maintain wildlife corridors (e.g. buffer strips, beetle banks, track and byway verges), wherever possible linking a range of different habitats.

Extend, link and buffer chalk grassland habitats e.g. through targeted arable reversion, scrub management and removal of inappropriate woodland planting.

Manage existing ancient woodland sympathetically to increase structural diversity (e.g. by restoring coppice, controlling deer numbers and promoting natural regeneration).

Restore Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) to conserve and enhance local landscape character and biodiversity.

Conserve existing veteran and ancient trees with careful management and support succession of veteran tree habitat (e.g. by pollarding, including creation of maiden pollards, and identification and management of future veterans).



Restore, conserve and enhance designed landscapes, other historic parkland and wood pasture.

Conserve the intricate network of sunken and other country lanes and tracks through sympathetic management of banks and verges.



Page 36 Open Downland, X Jones
Page 37 Downland with woodland, X Jones

Table 1 continued: Priorities for future rural land management support to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB by Landscape Type

Aims specific to AONB Landscape Types	
WOODED PLATEAU	HIGH CHALK PLAIN
Conserve and enhance the intimate mosaic of woodland, farmland and hedges that surrounds Savernake Forest and West Woods.	Maintain existing chalk grassland habitats.
Manage existing ancient woodland sympathetically to increase structural diversity e.g. by restoring coppice, controlling deer numbers and promoting natural regeneration.	Restore unmanaged relict grassland and encourage greater diversity through sympathetic management.
Restore Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) to conserve and enhance local landscape character and biodiversity.	Increase the diversity of semi-improved permanent grassland, especially where adjacent or close to unimproved grassland.
Conserve existing veteran and ancient trees with careful management and support succession of veteran tree habitat for lichens and invertebrates in particular, (e.g. by pollarding, including creation of maiden pollards) and identification and management of future veterans).	Extend, link and buffer chalk grassland habitats (e.g. through targeted arable reversion, scrub management and removal of inappropriate woodland planting).
Restore, conserve and enhance designed landscapes, other historic parkland and wood pasture.	Maintain and enhance the value of the mosaic of arable land and chalk grassland for priority farmland bird and arable plant species (e.g. through spring sowing and winter stubbles, nesting plots, uncropped headlands, unsprayed field margins, pollen, nectar and seed mixes). Create and maintain wildlife corridors (e.g. buffer strips, beetle banks, track and byway verges), wherever possible linking a range of different habitats.
Restore, extend/link and sympathetically manage relict areas of heathland.	
	

Aims specific to AONB Landscape Types

DOWNES PLAIN AND SCARP

VALES

On the Plain, encourage restoration of historic hedge boundaries and improve existing boundaries through sympathetic hedge management, creation of buffer strips and promotion and management of hedgerow trees.

Restore unmanaged remnant waterside pasture and encourage greater diversity through sympathetic management, including grazing.

On the Plain, consider opportunities for sympathetic, small-scale tree-planting integrated within a network of well-managed hedges.

Extend existing and create new waterside pastures and wet meadows.

On the Plain, improve the value of the arable landscape for priority farmland birds, pollinators, arable plants and other wildlife (e.g. through spring sowing and winter stubbles, nesting plots, uncropped headlands, unsprayed field margins, pollen, nectar and seed mixes). Create and maintain wildlife corridors (e.g. buffer strips, beetle banks, track and byway verges) wherever possible linking a range of different habitats.

Maintain the traditional pattern of field boundaries through sympathetic hedge management, restoration of historic hedge boundaries, creation of buffer strips and promotion and management of hedgerow trees.

Along the Scarp, maintain and enhance the diversity and wildlife value of the farmland/woodland/chalk grassland/historic parkland mosaic.

Consider opportunities for sympathetic, small-scale, riparian native woodland creation along watercourses. This will both restore a feature of the historic landscape and help mitigate the warming effects of climate change on chalk stream ecology by providing shade.

Along the western Scarp, promote sympathetic management of the varied and distinctive linear wooded hangers and wooded combs.

Restore, conserve and enhance parkland, estate landscapes and other historic features, such as watercress beds.

Support realisation of the potential for The Ridgeway National Trail to serve as a conservation corridor through the landscape, encouraging ecological enhancement of land adjacent and close to The Ridgeway.

In the Pewsey Vale especially, promote new hedgerow trees as part of a landscape recovery strategy to counter the effects of Dutch elm disease and now ash die-back.

Conserve and enhance the monumental landscape of the Avebury World Heritage Site and its setting, including through targeted arable reversion, increasing the diversity of semi-improved permanent grassland, scrub management and removal of inappropriate woodland planting.



Page 38 Wooded Plateau, X Jones; High Chalk Plain, X Jones
Page 39 Plain and scarp, X Jones; Vales, X Jones

theme 3

Biodiversity

illustration - including key species (butterflies, birds; species tbc) and habitats (chalk streams, arable fields, woodlands, wetlands)



“At length the snow ceases and the wind drops to a whisper; then over the hill-top the lapwings start up again and wheel in phantom flight, shrieking their weird night call.”

Edward Thomas (1878-1917)

There are 66 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), covering 3,330 ha, in the North Wessex Downs

29 SSSIs in the Downs contain chalk grassland, totalling 1,421 ha – just under half the total SSSI area



A Landscape Full of Life

The breadth of ecological diversity in the North Wessex Downs reflects its landscape character and is the product of centuries of human influence

5.1 The breadth of ecological diversity reflects the varied landscape character of the North Wessex Downs. It is the product of centuries of human influence and active management. Within the area, there are seven Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), part of the 'Natura 2000' ecological network of sites established under the EU Habitats Directive and designed to safeguard habitats and species threatened at a European level. Both the Pewsey Downs SAC and Fyfield Downs SSSI are also National Nature Reserves. They have an outstanding chalk grassland flora and fauna, including nationally important populations of rare species, such as the endemic early gentian. The North Wessex Downs contains 66 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) covering 3,330 ha (2% of the area).

5.2 The most important habitats for nature conservation in the North Wessex Downs are the remnant areas of chalk grasslands; semi-natural broadleaf woodlands and wood pasture; chalk rivers, streams and associated wetlands; and arable farmland managed for conservation.

5.3 Other habitats of particular significance within the AONB range from remnant heathlands on river gravel deposits in the east, such as areas of semi-natural acidic grassland around Inkpen, to the wide grassy verges of the droveways crossing the Downs. At a local level, the hedgerow network, springs, remnant water cress beds, road verges and dew ponds also provide important refuges and habitats. Chalk cuttings have magnificent displays of primroses and cowslips each year. This mosaic of habitats is especially important for bats, some species of which are known to commute 20 to 30 kilometres from their roosts in old trees or outbuildings to forage over a range of insect-rich habitats including wetlands, farmland, wood pasture and grassland.

Chalk grassland is one of the most biologically rich and diverse habitats in the UK

Chalk Grassland

5.4 Chalk grassland is one of the most biologically rich and diverse habitats in the UK. Over 40 species of flowering plants are found in a single square metre of the best quality turf. Around 9% of chalk grassland in the UK lies within the North Wessex Downs. Traditionally grazed by sheep, cattle and rabbits, the area's chalk grassland supports important populations of the early gentian, a scheduled protected species and one of Britain's few endemic plants. Unimproved chalk grassland is also important for the survival of many scarce invertebrate species such as the wart-biter cricket and the internationally threatened marsh fritillary butterfly. Other scarce chalk grassland butterflies include the Adonis blue, Duke of Burgundy, chalkhill blue and small blue; the habitat also supports good populations of skylarks.

5.5 Twenty-nine SSSIs in the North Wessex Downs contain chalk grassland, totalling 1,421 hectares – just under half the total SSSI area (and 0.8% of the AONB). A further suite of 249 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) have a chalk grassland component. These sites total 2,163 hectares (1.3% of the AONB), but the precise area of chalk grassland habitat within the LWS network is not known.

5.6 Nationally, areas of chalk grassland are a shadow of their extent in the 1900s. In the North Wessex Downs the area of chalk grassland declined by 32% between 1968 and 1998. The remaining areas are suffering increasing fragmentation. Today small isolated blocks of chalk grassland are largely restricted to the steep scarp slopes, dry valleys and areas maintained as pasture around archaeological sites. The total area of chalk grassland in the North Wessex Downs now is not known but it is estimated that the Berkshire and Marlborough Downs Natural Area – which covers roughly two-thirds of the AONB – supports at least 1,250 hectares (about 3-5% of the total area of chalk grassland in England).

Woodland

5.7 According to the Woodland Trust, the North Wessex Downs

contain two nationally important ‘major concentrations’ of ancient woodland, centred on the Berkshire and Marlborough Downs and the Hampshire Downs; and areas of forest such as Savernake.

5.8 In the AONB:

- ▶ less than 0.1% of the total woodland area is designated as a National Nature Reserve;
- ▶ 0.5% is designated as Special Areas for Conservation (SAC);ⁱ
- ▶ 7.5% is designated as Site of Special Scientific Interest;
- ▶ 42.3% is designated as a Local Wildlife Site.

5.9 The diverse woodland types that make up these ancient woodlands include significant areas of wood pasture. They support a wide range of species, including important roosting sites for a number of bat species. Of particular importance are the calcareous woodlands that support a range of rare plants including herb paris and green hellebore and provide home to substantial populations of native bluebells (for which Britain has global responsibility, supporting about half the world’s bluebell population).ⁱⁱ

Chalk Rivers and Streams

5.10 The spring-fed streams and rivers of the North Wessex Downs support an extremely diverse range of plant and animal communities. Pea mussels, freshwater white clawed crayfish and internationally rare floating vegetation of river water-dropwort can be found along their reaches. In turn, the rivers irrigate adjacent areas creating the distinctive valley landscape with its remnant fens and water meadows. The summer snowflake, a Red Data Book species, survives in seasonally flooded sites along the River Kennet. In recognition of their outstanding nature conservation value the Lambourn, Kennet and Hampshire Avon rivers are all designated SSSIs, while the River Lambourn, the Hampshire Avon, and the Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain – a series of discrete sites supporting the globally vulnerable Desmoulin’s whorl snail – are Special Areas of Conservation.



Page 41 Lapwings, X Jones
Page 42 Milkwort, X Jones
Page 43 Brown hares, X Jones

Enclosed Farmland

5.11 Arable cultivation is the dominant land management activity in the area. The North Wessex Downs support a wide range of nationally and regionally important species associated with arable farmland and adapted to colonise land disturbed through tillage. They include farmland birds like stone-curlew and tree sparrow; rare arable plants such as corn buttercup and shepherd’s needle; and mammals such as brown hare and harvest mouse. Many of these species are listed as ‘Species of Priority Importance’ under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and are targets for the Government’s ‘Biodiversity 2020’

i (12 SACs, originally designated to meet obligations under the EU Habitats Directive are defined in the new National Planning Policy Framework as falling “within the definition at regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017” (NPPF 2018, Glossary page 67).
ii (13 G. Vines (ed.) 2004 ‘Bluebells for Britain’ Plantlife, Salisbury.



strategy to implement commitments under the global Convention on Biological Diversity. An Arable Strategy was prepared for the AONB in 2008 to help protect and enhance the nationally important arable biodiversity found within the North Wessex Downs.

5.12 Although the downlands are essentially a large-scale landscape, traditional areas of mixed farming, responding to the underlying geology, have resulted in a range of habitats (grassland, scrub and arable lands) co-existing in close proximity. This complex of interlinked habitats provides some of the most favourable conditions for the characteristic birds and mammals of the North Wessex Downs, including brown hares, skylarks, lapwings, tree sparrows, corn buntings, linnets and grey partridges. Increased cover, nesting opportunities and a wider abundance of food supply occur where arable margins meet up with wildflower and insect rich downland and scrub. This supports an important community of ground-nesting birds and other species typical of arable and unimproved grassland which has been lost from many areas of arable farmland. The North Wessex Downs Farmland Bird Project has helped to target agri-environment resources to benefit these species and communities.

5.13 Changes to climate will alter the composition of the natural communities that are characteristic of chalk downland, woodland, streams and arable fields. Diverse natural communities of plants and animals are most likely to survive on soils and in streams with low nutrient status and in large patches of habitat. Given the pressures of climate change and the need for species migration, habitat corridors along rights of way and habitat networks are of increasing value.

Nature Conservation

5.14 A pivotal review of England's wildlife sites and its ecological network published in 2010 identified Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty as having great potential 'to establish a coherent and resilient ecological network'. The key message from this report, which was adopted into policy through the 2011 'Natural Environment White Paper', was that to safeguard the country's wildlife habitats and species it was essential to 'make space for nature'. It advocated that this could be most readily achieved by making existing sites that are important for wildlife 'bigger, better,

and joined up' and by creating more such sites. The aim of this is to create a sustainable, resilient and more effective ecological network for England.

5.15 The North Wessex Downs Partnership encourages activities that:

- ▶ improve the quality of current sites by better habitat management;
- ▶ increase the size of current wildlife sites;
- ▶ enhance connections between or join up sites either through physical corridors, or through 'stepping stones';
- ▶ create new sites;
- ▶ reduce the pressures on wildlife by improving the wider environment, including through buffering wildlife sites.

5.16 These actions will help to establish an ecological network that meets the needs for wildlife and people today, and one that is more resilient to the future pressures, including climate change.

There are trade-offs between these actions: the more we do to improve the quality of existing sites or to enhance the wider environment, the less we will need to do to create new sites. Our actions need to be adaptive, adjusting to what works as we progress.

5.17 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services' sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for a decade on land (including rivers and lakes) and at sea. Biodiversity 2020 Objectives are to be delivered through a more integrated, large-scale approach to conservation on land and at sea; putting people at the heart of biodiversity policy; reducing environmental pressures; and improvement of knowledge. DEFRA's 25 Year Environment Plan proposes to learn lessons from this existing strategy, to build on it with the stated aims to "... achieve a growing and resilient network of land, water and sea that is richer in plants and animals."ⁱⁱⁱ

5.18 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out measures to conserve and enhance the natural environment, including protecting and enhancing sites for biodiversity,

minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity including by establishing coherent ecological networks. Further, it makes clear that Local Plans should "take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.^{iv} Green infrastructure is a "network of multifunctional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities"^v and it helps address and mitigate the impacts of climate change. It helps address and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

5.19 Initiatives at local and regional levels have been taken to identify the areas which offer the best opportunities for habitat creation, connectivity and biodiversity enhancements. An initiative to define an ecological network of 'Biodiversity Opportunity Areas' (BOAs) in south east England was based on mapping key habitats and nature conservation sites identified at international, national and local levels. This identified 33 BOAs or equivalent sites in, or partly within, the North Wessex Downs boundary; they are considered to provide the best opportunities for targeted biodiversity enhancements and habitat creation at the landscape scale. Some local authorities have developed and embedded this concept into planning measures, such as the 'Conservation Target Areas' in Oxfordshire. North Wessex Downs Partnership is contributing to a more joined up approach through its involvement in and support for local landscape scale conservation projects. The Marlborough Downs Nature Improvement Area is an example of such initiatives. This successful pilot project continues as the Marlborough Downs 'Space for Nature' farmer group, facilitated through the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund.^{vi}

[Our] actions will help to establish an ecological network that meets the needs of wildlife and people



Page 44 Chalk stream, X Jones
Page 45 landscape conservation work, X Jones; Marlborough Downs, X Jones; Green infrastructure, X Jones

iii (14 DEFRA 25 Year Environment Plan; pages 26 & 58.
iv (15 NPPF (2018) paragraphs 170 & 171.
v (16 NPPF (2018) Glossary, page 67.
vi new ref <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/countryside-stewardship-facilitation-fund-provides-conservation-boost>

Page 33

Chalk grassland

in the Downs supports rare plants like field fleawort, musk orchid and Chiltern gentian

Arable habitats

in the Downs provide feeding and breeding grounds for rare farmland birds like skylarks

AONB Special Qualities: Biodiversity

5.20 Designated wildlife sites that are home to rare habitats and species, including:

- ▶ A nationally significant area of **chalk grassland** including rare flora such as field fleawort, bastard toadflax, musk orchid and burnt orchid, early gentian, chalk eyebright, Chiltern gentian, dwarf mouse ear, tuberous thistle and round-headed rampion; invertebrates such as the wart-biter cricket and important butterfly populations including: Adonis blue, silver studded blue, marsh fritillary, chalkhill blue, small blue, silver spotted skipper and Duke of Burgundy fritillary;
- ▶ Substantial areas of **broadleaved woodland and wood pasture**, including a significant concentration of ancient woodlands, which provide roosting and/or feeding sites for bats species including Bechstein's bat, barbastelle, greater horseshoe bat and noctule; long rotation hazel coppice provides important habitat for mammals such as dormice; concentrations of calcareous bluebell woods; and a number of nationally scarce moss species;

- ▶ Rare **chalk streams and rivers** with a high diversity of aquatic plants, and invertebrate species including those that are nationally scarce, such as the white-clawed crayfish; supporting nationally and locally scarce bird species; mammals including otters and nationally declining water voles; and healthy fish populations including brown trout, salmon, grayling, perch, chub and dace;
- ▶ **Arable habitats** which are home to rare and colourful arable weeds, such as dense flowered-fumitory, slender tare and shepherd's needle, which are dependent on a regular cropping regime. Arable land use also provides feeding and breeding habitat for a number of rare and declining farmland birds including skylarks and stone-curlews;
- ▶ A rich mosaic of associated **wetland habitats** creating distinctive valley landscapes including fens, floodplains, water meadows, carr and wet woodland. As an example, the Red Data Book plant summer snowflake survives in seasonally flooded woodlands along the Kennet Valley.

5.21 Opportunities for landscape scale conservation projects, working across a significant area and administrative boundaries.



Biodiversity: Key Issues, AONB Strategic Objectives and Policies

Biodiversity in the North Wessex Downs faces a range of challenges which this Plan will address through the implementation of key objectives and policies

5.22 Key Issues

Key issues with the potential to have significant influence on the AONB's Biodiversity Special Qualities:

- a) General lack of knowledge about the full biological resource of the North Wessex Downs and how to manage it most effectively for biodiversity, including the management of sites that may support habitats and species of principal importance and other wildlife features of local significance.

Page 335

Habitat fragmentation degrading ecosystem functionality (dispersal and colonisation potential of wildlife populations constrained, leading to loss of genetic diversity and risk of local extinctions).

Impacts of climate change on habitats and species with both losses and gains. In addition to direct impacts on habitats (e.g. drying out of wetlands) there are likely to be indirect effects such as those caused through colonisation by non-natives responding to climatic change. The resilience and response of species to climate change, such as shifts in distribution, will be strongly influenced by habitat availability and connectivity.

- d) Uncertainties over future land use and land management patterns following UK's withdrawal from the European Union, in particular the impact on opportunities to deliver significant biodiversity improvements across the farmed landscape, and retention of improvements secured through past land management support schemes.
- e) Direct and indirect effects of agricultural intensification and land management changes having continued negative impacts on farmland wildlife.



- f) Continued decline of species, in particular those with narrow habitat requirements that have responded negatively to changes in land management practices.
- g) Nesting success and productivity is often insufficient to reverse declines or even to sustain current populations of many ground nesting birds.
- h) Loss of once-common species of chalk streams and rivers such as the water vole and the white-clawed crayfish (both priority target species).
- i) Negative impacts of invasive non-native species on native wildlife.
- j) Economic fragility of low input/extensive farming systems and cost of replacement infrastructure (fencing, water supplies etc) leading to loss or deterioration of semi-natural habitats through both undergrazing and overgrazing.

Page 46 Marsh fritillary, X Jones; hazel dormouse, X Jones

Page 47 Wetland, X Jones

Fragmentation

of habitats is a key issue, causing the degradation of ecosystem functionality

Poor habitat management

and changing practices are resulting in declines in biodiversity

- k) Bovine tuberculosis testing and movement regulations reducing the availability of cattle for conservation grazing.
- l) Lack of grazing livestock to manage remaining areas of semi-natural chalk grassland.
- m) Problems, where grazing is still practised, from recreational pressures including dog worrying and trespass.
- n) Increasing erosion of remnant areas of chalk grassland as a result of recreational activities.
- o) Degradation and loss of river and wetland habitats through inappropriate management, development, increasing water demand, pollution, eutrophication and climate change.
- p) Lack of or poor management of much ancient woodland, causing a decline in biodiversity.
- q) Lack of resources to maintain biodiversity and secure enhancements of the existing green infrastructure network, including road verges.
- r) Erosion of lane and byway verges by increased traffic use and larger vehicles.
- s) Change from the use of grass gallops (some of which retain remnant areas of chalk grassland) to artificial surfaces in the racing industry.
- t) The need for access restrictions to areas supporting vulnerable ground-nesting species, such as stone-curlew.
- u) The effect of development within the AONB Setting on species, habitats and wildlife sites within the AONB.



5.23 AONB Strategic Objectives for 2019-2024: Biodiversity

- S.07 Identify and promote action to safeguard and to enhance habitats and species which are characteristic of the North Wessex Downs and are not at a favourable conservation status, in particular chalk downland, chalk rivers and streams, broadleaved woodlands, and populations of farmland birds and plants.
- S.08 Explore opportunities to promote the 'net gain to biodiversity' principles as elaborated in the revised NPPF and DEFRA's 25 Year Environment Plan across the AONB and its Setting, taking account of lessons learned from the benefits arising from the Biodiversity 2020 strategy in the local area.

5.24 AONB Policies: Biodiversity

B 01	Resist proposals which have a likely significant effect (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) upon a European site unless it can be ascertained following an appropriate assessment that they will have no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the site(s) concerned.
B 02	Support the delivery of Biodiversity 2020 objectives, and DEFRA's 25 Year Environment Plan along with landscape-scale strategies, catchment management and forestry plans to ensure effective management of all priority habitats and species in the AONB landscape.
B 03	Encourage a co-ordinated and consistent approach to biodiversity conservation across the AONB and its Setting.
B 04	Support and encourage work to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the North Wessex Downs through support for landscape-scale projects for habitat management, restoration and creation, particularly where they deliver identified priorities within areas identified as offering the best opportunities for investment in biodiversity, including through management of existing wildlife sites and valuable habitat to the highest standards.
B 05	Support land managers in restoring, creating and maintaining habitats for key species, including threatened arable plants, invertebrates and farmland birds.
B 06	Support the development of initiatives to safeguard and develop habitat corridors and ecological networks throughout the AONB, and in particular to enhance the ecological value of road verges and similar linear features such as public rights of way and National Trails.
B 07	Support partnerships with key stakeholders to promote and deliver projects that contribute to the achievement of good ecological status for water bodies in the AONB.
B 08	Encourage the improvement of connections between people and the natural environment and promote access to nature throughout the AONB.
B 09	Support efforts to communicate the benefits of the local natural environment and its value to society.
B 10	Encourage innovative use of initiatives such as Environmental Land Management schemes to deliver biodiversity benefits and the provision and protection of ecosystem goods and services.
B 11	Support research into causes of declines in ground nesting birds and support appropriate projects that aim to rebuild populations.
B 12	Encourage and support efforts to identify the extent of spread and damage caused by invasive non-native species (INNS), to eradicate or contain their spread, and to restore habitats and wildlife populations damaged by them.
B 13	Seek to secure readily accessible baseline biodiversity data across the North Wessex Downs.
B 14	Support the County Biological Record Centres and Historic Environment Records Centres serving the North Wessex Downs as the main repositories for information on the biodiversity and cultural heritage of the AONB and support initiatives to engage the public in biological recording/monitoring.
B 15	Support and encourage measures to enable grazing on all the main grassland areas of the AONB.
B 15	Support and encourage the implementation measures to deliver net gain to nature to minimise the effects of development and to address key issues affecting biodiversity resources in the AONB and its Setting.

theme 4

Historic Environment

illustration - standing stones & monuments; castle;
church and thatched cottages; railway/canal, country
park/gardens



“What is truly remarkable about the White Horse [at Uffington] is not that people at some time in the ancient past took the trouble to cut it into the hillside ... but that continuously for over twenty centuries others have made the effort to maintain it. Whatever religious or ritualistic significance the White Horse may have had to its creators has long since faded away. For most of its existence – through plague,

5,000 years ago

evidence of human influence on the area appeared with the creation of barrows at Avebury

3,000 years ago

the Uffington White Horse was carved into the chalk of the North Wessex Downs



A Landscape Woven with Time

The cultural heritage of the North Wessex Downs makes a powerful and fundamental contribution to the present-day landscape and to our own lives

6.1 The North Wessex Downs is an ancient man-made landscape. This cultural heritage makes a powerful and fundamental contribution to the present-day landscape and to our own lives, as Bill Bryson neatly describes. Evidence of human influence on the area extends back at least 5,000 years when the long barrows at Avebury were constructed.

6.2 In the three thousand years since the Uffington White Horse was carved the landscape of the North Wessex Downs has constantly evolved to serve the changing needs of the successive generations of the people who have lived and worked here. What we see today is a rich and many-layered patchwork of features that record different stages in its evolution. Together they contribute an irreplaceable sense of time and personality to the present day scene. Past human influence is etched in every facet of the landscape – in the shape of fields and woods, the alignment of tracks and lanes, the form and texture of villages and hamlets. In years to come the landscape of the North Wessex Downs will continue to evolve, but hopefully in ways that will allow the ingrained reminders of its past to add meaning and value to the lives of its future residents and visitors.

6.3 The importance of the historic environment is clearly recognised in the planning system. The National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF) confirms that significance of heritage assets lies not only in their interest and value to people today but also to future generations. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. The significance of an asset derives not only from physical presence, but also from its setting – in other words, its relationship to nearby historic places and within the wider landscape.

Many of the area's archaeological sites have national or even international recognition

Features of the North Wessex Downs

6.4 A wide range of features of differing scale, visibility and significance make up the historic environment. Many of the area's archaeological sites have national or even international recognition. The landscape that includes the complex of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age monuments around Avebury (and including Silbury Hill, West Kennet long barrow, the causewayed enclosure on Windmill Hill, dozens of Bronze Age barrows and many other important sites) is of such global significance that it has been inscribed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as a World Heritage Site.

6.5 There are 479 Scheduled Monuments in the North Wessex Downs AONB; one of the densest concentrations in the country. These include:

- ▶ Neolithic long barrows of Waylands Smithy high on the chalk ridge overlooking the Thames Valley and Adam's Grave above the Vale of Pewsey;
- ▶ Bronze Age barrow cemeteries such the Lambourn Seven Barrows;
- ▶ the Uffington White Horse and its adjacent Iron Age hillfort, (one of a string of major late prehistoric defensive sites that occupy prominent positions on the higher downs);
- ▶ the small Roman town at *Cunetio* near Mildenhall and Roman villas such as Littlecote; and
- ▶ the medieval motte and bailey castles at Hamstead Marshall and Marlborough College.

6.6 One Registered Battlefield is included within the AONB: Roundway Down, near Devizes. This site was the location of a major encounter fought in July 1643 when a Parliamentarian army was heavily defeated by a significantly smaller Royalist force.

6.7 In addition to designated archaeological features, the local Historic Environment Records (HERs) maintained by the County Councils in Hampshire and Oxfordshire and the unitary



Page 34
Authorities in Wiltshire, Swindon and West Berkshire, contain records of more than 11,000 sites, monuments and finds of archaeological and historic interest within the boundary of the North Wessex Downs. Even though they may not yet have been designated as scheduled monuments, many of these sites are of national importance. Many others are of local significance and make a real contribution to local distinctiveness and sense of place. The information contained on the HERs is a vital part of the jigsaw of information that allows us to understand how our communities have developed and our landscapes have evolved over more than six millennia.

6.8 Another important part of the local heritage is the extensive network of footpaths, bridleways and byways, including the ancient ridgeway paths along the Marlborough Downs to the Chilterns and beyond. These historic communication routes are a characteristic feature of the AONB and are now a valuable recreational resource.

6.9 The built environment also makes a fundamental contribution to the landscape. The North Wessex Downs contain 4,069 Listed Buildings. More than 250 of these are listed at Grade I or II*, the two highest levels of importance. Buildings protected through

listing take many different forms and reflect nearly a thousand years of human settlement. As well as grand country houses, the market towns in the AONB are enriched by the town houses of wealthy merchants and its villages by many splendid medieval parish churches. Listed buildings in the North Wessex Downs also include some spectacular and very early barns; locks and other structures associated with the Kennet and Avon Canal; milestones, roadside pumps and signs related to turnpike roads; and pillboxes built as part of the planned defence of Britain in the early phase of the Second World War.

6.10 The North Wessex Downs include 15 Registered Parks and Gardens. One of these, Highclere Castle, is registered at Grade I, and four examples, Tottenham House, Purley Hall, Ashdown House and Inkpen House, are registered as II*. Although not on the national Register, many other areas of designed landscape, including historic parkland, gardens and cemeteries add significant local value, especially within and around some of the AONB's towns and larger villages.

.....
i (9 NPPF paragraph 184.)

Page 51 Avebury stone monuments, X Jones

Page 52 Archaeological dig, X Jones

Page 53 Uffington White Horse, X Jones



Page 54 Ashdown House, X Jones; Hungerford High Street, X Jones; Country cottages, X Jones
 Page 55 Church at Aldbourne, X Jones; Whitchurch Silk Mill, X Jones

6.11 As with the archaeological resource, many local buildings and structures remain unprotected through the listing mechanism. None the less, they contribute to the landscape or to our understanding of historic events or processes. Some of these lie within the 109 Conservation Areas designated by local authorities in settlements of particular historic character or significance. Many others, especially isolated structures or farm buildings, receive little or no formal protection.

6.12 A further heritage asset, often overlooked in terms of importance to the historic landscape, is managed woodland, including deer parks, hunting forests, irreplaceable ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees. These areas, managed sensitively, play a significant role in protecting archaeological earthworks from damage by cultivation.

Historic Landscape Character

6.13 Defining and mapping the Historic Landscape Character Areas for the North Wessex Downs has provided new insights in to the evolution of the landscape and the historic processes that have influenced the countryside. Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) is a way of analysing and recording how several millennia of human interaction with the land produces the rural landscape of today. It is nationally recognised as a means for understanding and managing the entire landscape and not just the isolated archaeological sites and buildings traditionally protected by scheduling or listing.

6.14 Better appreciation of how the landscape has evolved in relation to its underlying geology and changing socio-economic circumstances is vitally important. The methodology brings together a wealth of information, including semi-natural and living features (woodlands, hedges, etc) as much as archaeological features, with a clear recognition of the dynamic nature of the landscape, interpreting landscape on the basis of its 'time-depth' – the natural and cultural history that has produced the landscapes we find in the AONB today.

6.15 The main aims of the HLC process are to gain a fuller understanding of the whole AONB landscape; to raise awareness among local communities, visitors and the wider population of the unique cultural heritage of the North Wessex Downs, and to provide a tool for the integrated management of the area's historic environment. The resource informs planning decisions, provides a framework for policy making and research and improves the county-based Sites and Monument Records (SMRs) and Historic Environment Records (HERs).

6.16 Whilst confirming that the landscape of the North Wessex Downs has always been predominantly rural, HLC has begun to show how its detailed character has changed over time. One of the most significant statistics concerns the loss of open chalk downland. Of the 18% of the area that could be characterised as unploughed pasture in 19th century just 3% survives today.

6.17 The rate of agricultural change is also illustrated by the fact that around 75% of pre-18th century field enclosures have been lost during the 20th century. In addition, some two-thirds of medieval 'assart enclosures' (woodland clearances) have been lost or significantly modified in the same period.

Settlement Pattern

6.18 The pattern and distribution of settlement within the North Wessex Downs has evolved over millennia of human occupation. However, most of the current towns, villages, hamlets and farms are likely to have originated in medieval or post-medieval times. Some of the most characteristic features of the 'Downland' and 'Downland with Woodland' landscape character areas are the long linear settlements of the river valleys – the main concentrations of population in otherwise open uninhabited downland. Characteristically, these are loosely strung along a road on the first contour above the winter flood level, with the winterbourne or river forming an integral feature of the village. Examples are at St Mary Bourne in Hampshire, Collingbourne Kingston in Wiltshire and Hampstead Norreys in Berkshire.

The landscape of the North Wessex Downs has always been predominantly rural

6.19 The pattern in the 'Lowland Mosaic' landscape character area is distinctly different. This reflects its medieval origins in a network of hamlets, lines of houses and villages along roads. Some villages have a clear nucleus, typically associated with a village green or church, while others have a more dispersed pattern, typical of post-medieval squatter settlements. This pattern is also reflected in the 'Downland with Woodland' landscape type, which has small clustered hamlets and villages sheltering in folds in the chalk, as in the Chutes in Wiltshire, or exposed on ridgetops, as at Facombe in Hampshire. Evidence from the Domesday Survey of 1086 suggests that the creation of many of these settlements were during the Early Medieval (Saxon) period.

6.20 Another distinct settlement type of the North Wessex Downs is the string of attractive, small, springline villages that developed along the base of the lower north-facing scarp. Examples are Clyffe Pypard, Clevancy, Liddington, Letcombe, Ashbury and Bishopstone.

Ramsbury Manor and Savernake Forest, many originating as medieval deer parks.

6.25 **Post-medieval buildings and infrastructure** including the Kennet and Avon Canal; extant and former railway lines and tunnels; watermills, windmills and pumping stations; water meadows; 18th–19th-century planned farmsteads; First and Second World War airfields, pillboxes, ammunition dumps and practice trenches.

Only 3% of the open chalk downland that existed as unploughed pasture in the 19th century is left today

Around 75% of the area's pre-18th century field enclosures were lost during the 20th century



AONB Special Qualities: Historic Environment

- 6.21 **Neolithic and Bronze Age ritual and funerary monuments** including Knap Hill and Windmill Hill causewayed enclosures; West Kennet and Wayland's Smithy chambered tombs; Silbury Hill; Avebury stone circle and its surrounding ceremonial landscape; Bronze Age round barrows including Seven Sisters and Seven Barrows groups.
- 6.22 **Iron Age, Roman and post-Roman defences and settlements**, including Oldbury, Barbury Castle and Uffington Castle; Cunetio (Mildenhall) Roman town, Littlecote villa and the Roman road through Savernake Forest; Fifield and Overton Down field systems; Wansdyke, Grim's Ditch and Devils Ditch linear earthworks.
- 6.23 **Medieval and post-medieval settlements and buildings**, including castle earthworks; tithe barns; parish churches; the layouts and historic buildings of Marlborough, Hungerford, Ramsbury and many smaller villages
- 6.24 **Country houses and landscaped parks and gardens** such as at Basildon Park, Highclere Castle, Tottenham House and



Historic Environment: Key Issues, AONB Strategic Objectives and Policies

The historic environment in the North Wessex Downs faces a range of challenges which this Plan will address through the implementation of key objectives and policies

6.26 Key Issues

Key issues with the potential to have significant influence on the AONB's Historic Environment Special Qualities:

- a) Lack of knowledge about the broader historic landscape of the North Wessex Downs – the landscape speaks eloquently of its cultural history, but this needs to be better understood and more closely applied to management objectives.
- b) Many undiscovered archaeological sites, especially in wooded areas.

- c) Insufficient understanding of the historical evolution of individual settlements and how this should influence their future development.
- d) Need for more consistent approach to the designation and management of Conservation Areas, in particular the systematic use of Conservation Area appraisals and management plans.
- e) Development pressure threatens to the historic fabric and visual character of traditional market towns.
- f) Impact on archaeological sites, their settings and integrity, of inappropriate development, including siting of large agricultural buildings, renewable energy infrastructure, road infrastructure, traffic and signage.
- g) Poorly sited and designed new development that fails to reflect the historic form of settlements and building groups, their character and setting.
- h) Infilling and over-expansion on small plots, which may erode the traditional mixed character of individual settlements.
- i) Loss of local vernacular architecture and traditional farmstead layouts, especially through the insensitive conversion of traditional agricultural buildings.
- j) Loss of grazing animals, which is threatening the important archaeological sites with damage from uncontrolled scrub encroachment.
- k) Poorly managed recreational access to sensitive archaeological/cultural sites, including damage caused by inappropriate, irresponsible or illegal use of off-road motorised vehicles.
- l) Continued deep ploughing over archaeological sites and remains, and damage from burrowing animals.
- m) Impact of planting trees or biomass crops either directly on archaeological features, or on the character of the historic landscape through poor design and siting.
- n) Impact of modern farming practices on the character of the historic landscape.

6.27 AONB Strategic Objectives for 2019-2024: Historic Environment

- S.08 Promote wider use and understanding of Historic Landscape Characterisation to inform and guide strategic planning, development decisions, land management practices and other forces for change.
- S.09 Protect archaeological and historic features, sites and their landscape setting against inappropriate development and management practices.
- S.10 Support the inclusion of measures in neighbourhood plans to conserve and to enhance the character of settlements.

6.28 AONB Policies: Historic Environment

HE 01	Support efforts to ensure that sites, features and landscapes of historical importance are appropriately identified, recorded and managed.
HE 02	Encourage voluntary-sector research and collaboration on poorly understood aspects of the local historic environment.
HE 03	Encourage all stakeholders to use the English Heritage at Risk Register to focus on archaeological sites, historic buildings and conservation areas in special need of action.
HE 04	Work closely with the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site Partnership and other groups to develop shared objectives and deliver joint actions in support of the World Heritage Site Management Plan.
HE 05	Promote the production and publication of 'local lists' of heritage assets.
HE 06	Support initiatives that seek to provide long-term sustainable management of important heritage assets for social and economic benefits.
HE 07	Identify and promote opportunities to include the historic environment in community-generated Village Design Statements, Parish and Neighbourhood Plans etc., linked where appropriate to Conservation Area Appraisals.
HE 08	Promote and encourage the use of Historic Landscape and Historic Settlement Characterisation to inform land management, policy making and planning decisions.
HE 09	Support more and better explanation, interpretation and promotion of the historic environment for residents and visitors.
HE 10	Support collaborative historic environment activity involving professional and voluntary sectors, such as research and advice from historic environment experts.



theme 5

Natural Resources

illustration - including Sarson stones/geology/
chalk & flint, trees/woodland & wood fuel, water
meadows, rivers & fish, mill, chalk grassland,

“Our wealth as a nation and our individual well-being depend critically upon the environment.

It provides us with the food, water and air that are essential for life and with the minerals and raw materials for our industry and consumption. Less obviously, it provides the processes that purify air and water, and which sequester or break down wastes.

It is also in our environment where we find recreation, health

Natural capital is the Earth's stock of natural assets like minerals, air, water and biodiversity

Ecosystem services are the benefits that we receive from natural assets, such as clean water and fuel

Page 59 Woodland, X Jones
Page 60 Honey bees, X Jones
Page 61 Chalk stream, X Jones



A Landscape of Opportunity

The components of the natural environment that provide us with benefits to our health and well-being are known as 'natural capital'

Accounting for Natural Benefits

7.1 Whether we live in towns or in the countryside, we are dependent on ecological systems (ecosystems) for our health and well-being. The components of the natural environment that provide us with these benefits are known as 'natural capital'. The benefits which society derives from natural capital assets ('ecosystem services') are commonly grouped into four core categories of services:

- ▶ **Supporting services** (for example the processes which form soil, cycle nutrients and the essential photosynthetic process in plants).
- ▶ **Provisioning services** (for example, woodland that provides timber for fuel, construction and manufacturing; plant communities which sustain populations of insects to pollinate crops).
- ▶ **Regulating services** (for example, soils and aquifers that absorb rainfall reducing flooding, and filtering water to give us healthy rivers and clean drinking water).
- ▶ **Cultural services** (for example, landscapes, wildlife and cultural heritage that give us a sense of identity, support tourism, offer recreational and learning opportunities, assist our physical and mental well-being and delight the soul).

7.2 The 2011 UK National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) identified that inadequate consideration in decision-making of the full range of natural benefits and services that we derive from the natural environment is a significant factor contributing to the degradation of ecosystems. While we pay for some ecosystem

services, like food and fibre, we are often unaware of the importance of others, such as natural purification of water and air, and the attenuation of flood water. The cost of providing these artificially is considerable. In the years after the highly technical UK NEA reports were published, the environmental campaigner and writer Tony Juniper explained ecosystem services in an accessible and readily understandable format using a series of examples from around the world (in '*What has Nature Ever Done for Us?*') and more recently from around the UK (in '*What Nature does for Britain*'). These illustrate clearly the tendency to under-estimate the value of natural processes and the services and benefits we derive from the natural world. This leads to poorly informed decisions on how to safeguard these functions and utilise natural resources sustainably. The result is pollution, depletion of biodiversity, degraded ecosystems and substantial damage to the processes which are vital to life on Earth. There is a significant financial cost to restore ecosystem functionality or, if it is feasible to do so, to replace such functions with artificial alternatives.

7.3 Just as there are costs to restoring degraded ecosystems, there are benefits and savings from a healthy and naturally functioning environment. Degraded ecosystems present risks to businesses in terms of security of raw materials, waste disposal, insurance rates and brand image. In the North Wessex Downs, there are obvious direct links between ecosystems and the business activities of land-based industries such as farming and forestry (where soil health clearly underpins ecosystem function and the products from the land) and rural tourism. Associations can be less obvious or indirect for other businesses and relate, for example, to supply chains and investment choices.

7.4 In the rural landscape, sustainable agriculture and forestry could deliver widespread positive effects on ecosystems in the area. Grants, subsidies and advice can support and promote sustainable approaches to land use among farmers, foresters and other land managers.

There are benefits and savings from a healthy and naturally functioning environment

Conserving Resources and Maintaining Ecosystem Function

7.5 Protecting natural resources and the natural benefits arising from them by operating in a way that minimises damaging impacts is part of sustainable development. There is a particular need to conserve soil health, manage water and maintain clean air.

Soils

7.6 Soils are cultivated to produce essential items of food, clothing and fuel. Soils also deliver natural benefits, influencing water flows; storing carbon, and supporting wildlife habitats and nutrient cycling. The Government's strategy for soils in the DEFRA 25 Year Environment Plan sets out a case for improving soil health and protecting peatlands by addressing factors such as erosion, compaction and decline of organic matter. The stated policy objective is that *"By 2030, we want all of England's soils to be managed sustainably, and we will use natural capital thinking to develop appropriate soil metrics and management approaches."*

7.7 Chalk forms the underlying surface geological structure of the North Wessex Downs but the overlying soils influence vegetation cover and land use. Each soil type in the area has its own management requirements.

Sustaining Water Resources

7.8 The main rivers flowing through the Downs – the Pang, the Lambourn and the Kennet – drain eastwards to the River Thames. Watercourses flowing off the northern escarpment into the vales also feed the Thames catchment. The separate catchments of the Hampshire Avon and the Test flow south, draining the Vale of Pewsey and Hampshire Downs respectively. The escarpment in the west around Calne falls into the Salisbury Avon catchment, flowing west.

7.9 The status and condition of both surface waters and groundwater in terms of quality, availability and flow is important to people and to habitats and species in the AONB. The North Wessex Downs AONB Partnership is committed to supporting the work of Catchment Partnerships, water companies, local planning





Page 62 Flooding, X Jones; SuDS, X Jones; Natural Flood Management, X Jones

authorities and other interested groups to help assess, protect and enhance these important assets.

7.10 One in six residential and commercial properties in England is at risk from flooding. In the North Wessex Downs, there has been localised flooding of villages in the river valleys in the winter. This is often associated with rising groundwater and springs rather than river flooding. Flood risk management may include the provision of sustainable measures to alleviate future flood risk, for example Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) incorporating urban attenuation ponds, and Natural Flood Management (NFM) schemes involving attenuating surface water runoff from agricultural land, river restoration and river floodplain enhancement.

7.11 In summer, some rivers suffer from lack of flows because of water abstraction. This may then lead to a reduction in water quality and ecological diversity caused, for example, by reduced capacity to dilute inflows downstream from sewage treatment works or to transport silt resulting in its deposition. Pressure for abstraction from the chalk aquifers that feed these rivers is directly related to the rising demand for water, including from new development. Drainage structures and other features modify natural flow regimes. Climate change, the deterioration of assets, as well as continuing pressure to build in areas of high risk flood zones, will contribute to increased risk of flooding affecting local communities.

7.12 The waters of the chalk aquifers and rivers are a major source of potable water. Ground waters from within the river catchments are abstracted to meet demands for public water supply and for industry, agriculture and aquaculture (water cress and fish farms). The level of abstraction and effect on river flows varies across the area. The Lambourn has a near natural flow regime with minimal abstraction. In contrast, the River Pang was one of 40 rivers in England identified in the 1980s as suffering from low flows caused by over abstraction (from a groundwater source at Compton). Despite abstraction ceasing in 1997, prompted by increased nitrate levels, the Environment Agency continues to monitor the flow characteristics of the river.

7.13 Groundwater abstraction points in the Kennet valley are numerous, but the level of abstraction is low, amounting to only

5% of the available water resource. Following detailed studies by Thames Water, overseen by the Environment Agency, the Axford abstraction licence has been amended to safeguard flows in the River Kennet during low flows; in addition, the Ogbourne abstraction licence has been ended. These changes are part of a long-running programme of investigations and licence changes to make groundwater abstractions more sustainable across the AONB, although all licence reductions are still dependent on other sources of supply being available. Modelling indicates that abstraction is having a detrimental impact on river flows, although the proposed construction of a water supply pipeline from Farmoor Reservoir to Swindon is expected to reduce pressures for groundwater abstraction.

7.14 At the same time, the operational requirements of the Kennet and Avon Canal have an effect on the Kennet. Between Bath and the summit at Crofton Pumping Station the Canal is fed by the Bristol Avon; between the summit and Kintbury by the River Dun, a tributary of the Kennet; and between Kintbury and Reading by the Kennet. In-flows into the Canal from these river sources can result in less than optimum flows in the rivers, particularly in the summer months and in drier years. When the combined section of canal and river diverge, this can result in high levels of turbidity in the river. There has been significant progress amongst the various parties to minimise the impacts of the canal on the river, including the construction of bypass weirs at canal locks west of Hungerford to prevent canal water spilling over into the River Dun. It is a clear objective of the Canal and River Trust to optimise the use of water resources in the Canal and to use back-pumping to conserve water in the 'artificial' section between Bath and the Canal summit.

7.15 Under the Nitrates Directive, the majority of the North Wessex Downs is designated as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ). Within these zones, farmers are required to limit the application of manures and nitrogen fertilisers, subject to a closed season for the application of certain manures. They are also required to keep records of cropping, stocking and the application of nitrogen fertilisers and manures.

7.16 Further control of diffuse pollution is a requirement of the EU Water Framework Directive. There is an obligation to manage

North Wessex Downs AONB Surface Water Quality

Showing main river basins, river catchments and 2016 overall classification of ecological status.

Source: Environment Agency

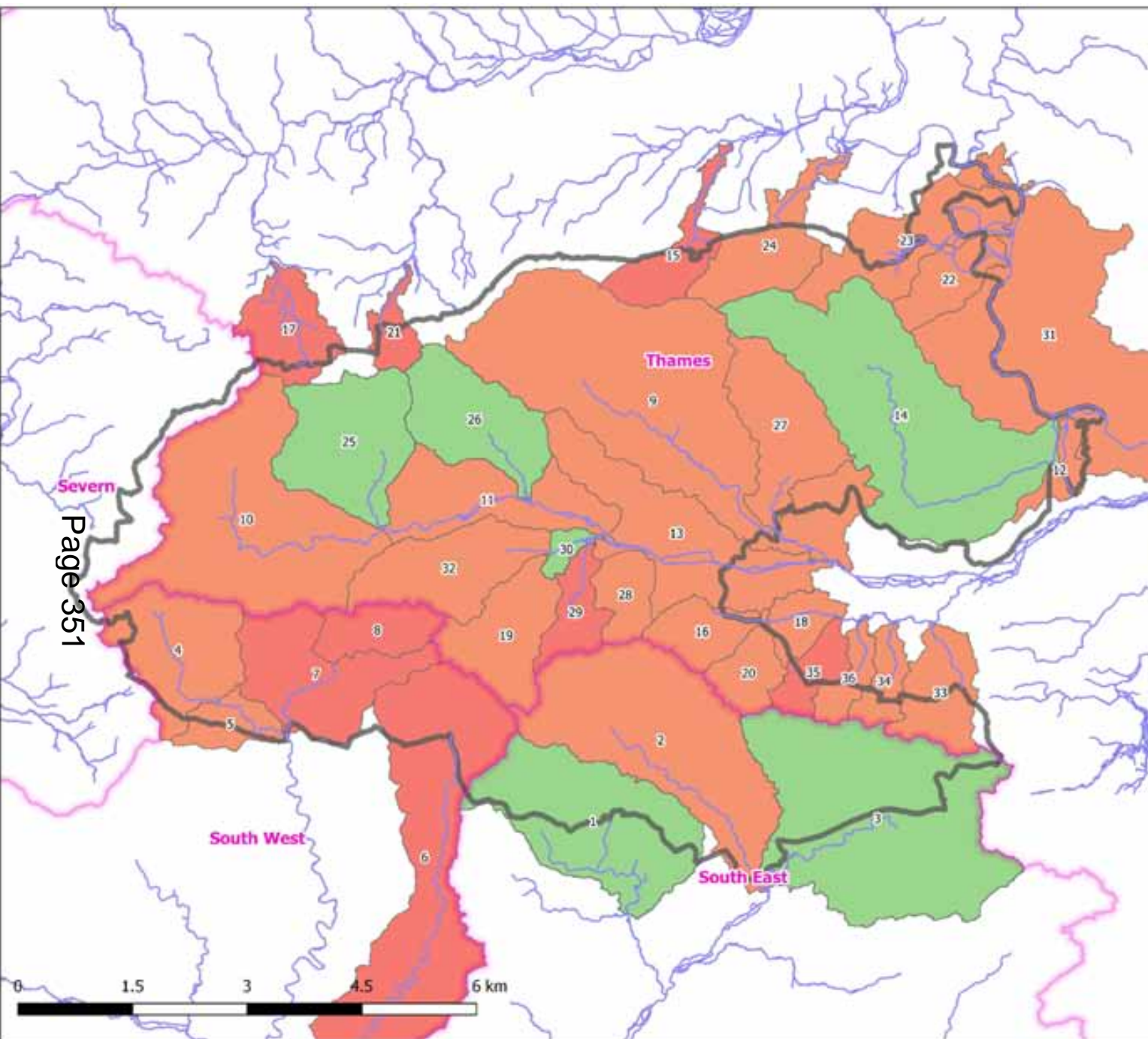
Legend

- River Basin Districts
- Main Rivers
- AONB Boundary

WFD Waterbody Catchments with 2016 Overall Ecological Status

- Good
- Moderate
- Poor

No.	Waterbody Name	Ecological Status
1	Anton - Upper	Good
2	Bourne Rivulet	Moderate
3	Test (Upper)	Good
4	Etchingham Water	Moderate
5	Hampshire Avon (West)	Moderate
6	Bourne (Hampshire Avon)	Poor
7	Hampshire Avon (East) and Woodborough Stream	Poor
8	Hampshire Avon (East) and Deane Water	Poor
9	Lambourn (Source to Newbury)	Moderate
10	Upper Kennet to Marlborough	Moderate
11	Middle Kennet (Marlborough to Hungerford)	Moderate
12	Sufham Brook	Moderate
13	Middle Kennet (Hungerford to Newbury)	Moderate
14	Fang	Good
15	Letcombe Brook	Poor
16	Enborne (Source to downstream A34)	Moderate
17	Ray (Wiltshire) source to Lydkard Brook	Poor
18	Enborne (downstream A34 to Burghdere Brook)	Moderate
19	Upper Dun	Moderate
20	Periwood Stream	Moderate
21	Liden Brook, Swindon	Poor
22	Cholsey Brook and tributaries	Moderate
23	Mill Brook and Bradfords Brook system, Wallingford	Moderate
24	Gage Brook and Mill Brook	Moderate
25	Og	Good
26	Aldbourn	Good
27	Winterbourne	Moderate
28	Trilpen Stream (source to Kennet)	Moderate
29	Shalbourne (source to Kennet at Hungerford)	Poor
30	Kennet and Avon Canal and Dun above Hungerford	Good
31	Thames Wallingford to Caversham	Moderate
32	Frofield Stream	Moderate
33	Baughurst Brook	Moderate
34	Kingsclere Brook (Source to Enborne)	Moderate
35	Earlstone Stream and Burghdere Brook (source to Enborne)	Poor
36	Echinswell Brook (source to Enborne)	Moderate



Page 351

60% of nitrates,

25% of phosphorous and 70% of the sediments in diffuse pollution are a result of farming

Agricultural

diseases, such as bluetongue, are on the increase, partly due to climate change

river basins to deliver good environmental outcomes in both surface waters and groundwater. Agriculture is recognised as one of the main sources of diffuse pollution of water courses and groundwater. DEFRA encourages Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) as a key approach to resolving this by managing land in a way that is sensitive to the ecological health of the water environment. While farming is not the sole cause of diffuse pollution, it does contribute approximately 60% of nitrates, 25% of phosphorus and 70% of sediments along with other pollutants which enter our surface waters.

Maintaining Air Quality

7.17 A variety of air pollutants have known or suspected harmful effects on human health and the environment. In most areas of Europe, these pollutants are principally the products of combustion from space heating, power generation or from motor vehicle traffic. Pollutants from these sources may not only prove a problem in the immediate vicinity but can travel long distances, chemically reacting in the atmosphere to produce secondary pollutants such as acid rain or ozone. The nearest monitoring site to the North Wessex Downs is at Harwell. Other sites are in Reading Town Centre, Newbury, Thatcham, Bath and Oxford. Pollution is low but there may be local issues, such as environmental quality relating to traffic pollution.

Climate Change

7.18 There is increasing evidence and acceptance that the global climate is changing, largely as a result of human activity and that we need to both mitigate the effects of high levels of atmospheric carbon and to adapt to the consequences of climate change. Government policies promote sustainable energy generation and more efficient consumption, and other actions aimed to achieve a low carbon economy. There is a broad consensus on how the climate of Southern England will change over the coming decades. These changes are expected to be progressive but gradual and may not be easily detectable over the 5 year period of

The ...
Partnership is
keen to refine its
understanding of
the impacts of
climate change



this Management Plan. However, strategies are needed now because of the time scale involved to implement effective actions. The main changes are likely to be warmer, drier summers; wetter, milder winters; and increased frequency of extreme weather conditions, such as storms.

7.19 Climate change may result in more rainfall occurring as winter deluges, falling on already saturated ground.

This would provide the conditions for increased soil erosion, resulting in damage to historic features and more silt, nutrients and pesticides washing into rivers. These inputs arise predominantly from arable farmland and already have a significant impact on water quality and freshwater biodiversity. Drought and lower summer rainfall are likely to result in a contraction of the chalk stream network. Freshwater species will be lost from some of the winterbournes while some perennial streams will become seasonal



7.21 The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment and National Adaptation Programme are two initiatives that define these impacts. They are based on predictions put forward by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09). The North Wessex Downs Partnership is keen to refine its understanding of the impacts of climate change and develop strategies for adaption to these effects.

7.22 'Making Space for Nature' outlined four key ways that we can adapt our ecological networks to a changing climate.

- ▶ Ensure that all parts of the network are in the best possible management.
- ▶ Increase the population sizes of vulnerable species.
- ▶ Reduce the risks of local extinction.
- ▶ Provide colonists for new sites.

7.23 To do this we must:

- ▶ Allow species to adapt by shifting their distributions naturally to stay within their preferred 'climate envelope' through increasing connectivity (habitat patches and corridors and a network of protected sites to provide a more permeable countryside).
- ▶ Enhance the opportunities for species to stay within their climate envelope through small-scale local movements (as opposed to being forced into long-distance dispersal) by promoting landscape level heterogeneity within the AONB.

winterbournes. There may be an increase in the popularity of streamside recreation as people seek shade in the hottest months.

7.20 Other significant changes also have the potential to affect the landscapes, wildlife and communities of the AONB. Woodlands may become 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 biofuels. We have already seen increases in agricultural diseases including African horse sickness, bluetongue disease and Schmallenberg virus (SBV) that can be attributed in part to climate change. Water flows in rivers and streams could become more erratic. Species populations and habitats may expand, contract or migrate. These changes may alter the structure and function of ecosystems; new species may migrate into the area, some of which could bring disease or pests that may be detrimental to indigenous species. Tourism pressures could increase as people alter holiday patterns to remain in the UK. All of these factors could affect the plants and animals which inhabit the North Wessex Downs.

Page 64 Chalk quarry, Westbury, X Jones;
Chalk, X Jones
Page 65 Chalk specialist species:
Chalkhill blue butterfly, X Jones



AONB Special Qualities: Natural Resources

- 7.24 Cretaceous, Tertiary and Quaternary **geological history**, with features such as Sarsen Stones.
- 7.25 This geology in turn influences the main **soil types** of the North Wessex Downs:
- ▶ Thin chalk soils of the open downland, now primarily under arable production.
 - ▶ The capping of Quaternary Clay with Flints over the chalk found as pockets of reddish brown clay

containing flint pebbles. These areas are particularly characteristic of the Downland with Woodland and Wooded Plateau Landscape Types.

- ▶ Quaternary Coombe deposits found where accumulated frost-weathered debris was carried down slope by melt waters at the end of the last glaciation. These have created till deposits in the dry valleys of the downs providing richer pockets of soil, often under arable production.
- ▶ Deep well-drained loamy soils over Greensand and river alluviums in the Vale of Pewsey, traditionally under pasture with large areas forming winter flood meadows.
- ▶ A mixed soil mosaic to the east of Newbury with nutrient-poor acidic soils over plateau gravels intermixed with fertile loamy soils overlying the London Clay, characterised by the Medieval landscape of the Lowland Mosaic Landscape Type.

7.26 Carbon storage in the characteristic habitats of the North Wessex Downs such as chalk grassland and broadleaved woodland.

7.27 Rivers with shallow sloping banks, clean shallow 'washed' **river gravel beds** (riffles) contrasting with deeper shaded pools.

7.28 Often a complex pattern of **river channels** (as on the Kennet downstream of Marlborough) reflecting the past use of the river to supply water to an extensive network of water meadows and mills, most of which are now disused. Upper winterbourne sections and winterbourne tributaries, flowing only during winter and spring when groundwater levels are at their highest.

7.29 **Clear natural water** fed from the chalk aquifer by springs which issue in the valleys of the chalk dip slope at the point where the water table comes to the surface. Limited fluctuations in water temperature throughout the year, resulting from the filtration of groundwater as it percolates through the chalk.

Page 66 White-clawed crayfish, X Jones

Page 67 Water abstraction, X Jones



Natural Resources: Key Issues, AONB Strategic Objectives and Policies

The North Wessex Downs faces a range of challenges with regards to its natural resources, which this Plan will address through the implementation of key objectives and policies

7.30 Key Issues

Key issues with the potential to have significant influence on the AONB's Natural Resources Special Qualities:

- a) Lack of agreement on the levels of acceptable environmental limits within the AONB.
- b) The need to raise awareness of water quality issues.
Accelerated water run-off and soil erosion, especially on steeper slopes and under 'open' arable crops, such as maize.
Opportunities to encourage minimum tillage and careful application of inputs.
- e) Overall air quality is generally good but activities outside the AONB can have a significant effect across the area; impacts of air pollution from road traffic and agriculture on ecosystem health is of concern.
- f) Over abstraction of groundwater and chalk aquifer.
- g) Increasing water demand, especially during the summer months, as a result of climate change and changing lifestyles.
- h) Increasing water demand for crop irrigation as a result of climate change and more erratic weather patterns resulting in prolonged dry periods and intense summer rainfall.
- i) The influence of climate change on groundwater recharge patterns, overall water availability and elevated temperatures in chalk streams.

- j) Increasing water demand as a result of major development in the urban areas in and around the North Wessex Downs, also sometimes leading to export of water out of the AONB catchments.
- k) Loss of river habitats as a result of historical land drainage and channel modifications associated with past flood alleviation works and past industry (although some man-made features, e.g. mill leats, are of considerable historical importance).
- l) Decline in fish stocks and quality of fisheries.
- m) Excessive removal of bankside vegetation (on occasion associated with fisheries management).
- n) Watercourse maintenance to conserve habitat while reducing flood risk where feasible.
- o) Loss of winterbourne channels through agricultural cultivation.
- p) Increasing lock movements on the Kennet and Avon Canal taking water from the River Kennet and its tributaries.
- q) Pollution of rivers from point sources, including public and private domestic sewerage systems (with phosphorus discharges a particular problem), agriculture, commercial watercress beds, and fish farms.
- r) Impacts on ecology of rivers from diffuse sources of pollution – often individually minor but collectively significant – including run-off from roads, houses and commercial areas, run-off from farmland, and seepage into groundwater from developed landscapes of all kinds, resulting in raised nutrient levels and toxic algal blooms.
- s) Pollution pressure on the River Kennet generated by poor water quality and boat traffic on the Kennet and Avon Canal.

Air pollution from traffic and agriculture impacts on ecosystem health

Over abstraction of groundwaters is of major concern, particularly in light of increased water demands due to climate change





7.31 AONB Strategic Objectives for 2019-2024: Natural Resources

- S.11 Promote and support measures to ensure chalk rivers and streams in the AONB achieve and are maintained at good ecological status including, for example, appropriate riparian planting to mitigate elevated water temperatures predicted as a consequence of climate change.
- S.11 bis Advocate full recognition in decision-making by relevant bodies of the importance of the AONB's natural capital assets of the AONB.
- S.12 Ensure that all landscape interventions recognise and address the implications of climate change for the special qualities of the North Wessex Downs and its setting.
- S.12 bis Encourage efforts to determine the significance of air pollution to maintaining natural capital assets of the AONB and its special qualities, including ecosystem function, cultural heritage and community wellbeing; and responses to address concerns.
- S.13 Advocate the recognition of the importance of the North Wessex Downs landscape for the environmental goods and services it provides to the economy and society as a whole, including heritage, water quality, soils, food production, wildlife, flood management, carbon storage, recreation, health and well-being.

7.32 AONB Policies: Natural Resources

NR 01	Support co-ordinated action, guidance and measures on soil health issues.
NR 02	Promote and encourage initiatives for the sustainable management of soil by land managers to minimise soil degradation through erosion, compaction, pollution and impoverishment, particularly in the case of the thin chalk downland soils.
NR 03	Support and provide landscape input to AONB catchment partnerships. Contribute to research, projects and co-operation of partners with an influence on watercourses and catchments.
NR 04	Encourage all partners to take water demand and its consequences for landscape, ecology and fisheries fully into account in decisions regarding planning, changes to land use or cropping patterns within the North Wessex Downs.
NR 05	Support the introduction of demand management measures for water use in those settlements that draw on the aquifers of the North Wessex Downs, and measures to monitor and reduce water wastage.
NR 06	Support efforts to ensure that no water is abstracted from catchments that are classified as ‘no water available’, ‘over licensed’ or ‘over abstracted’ under the Environment Agency’s Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy.
NR 07	Support work to identify and address the sources of diffuse and point pollution within the North Wessex Downs through agencies, local groups and volunteer initiatives.
NR 08	Promote and help co-ordinate remedial action through the Catchment Sensitive Farming Initiative and other partnership schemes to restore and enhance degraded river sections within the North Wessex Downs.
NR 09	Work to ensure that no new abstraction licences are granted within the North Wessex Downs which export water out of the catchments of the AONB. Support measures to reduce abstraction and help businesses adopt new mitigation measures.
NR 10	Promote Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) and natural flood management initiatives to maximise benefits, for example through restoration of traditional water meadow systems or shallow winter flooding in the floodplain to benefit people and wildlife.
NR 11	Promote restoration and continued maintenance of rivers and river corridors to further biodiversity and amenity objectives – re-creating natural river channels and re-linking rivers with their floodplains where this would not damage artificial channels of historic and cultural importance.
NR 12	Seek to develop a better understanding of the likely implications of climate change on the environment and economy of the North Wessex Downs.
NR 13	Support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane, from all possible sources. Support mitigation measures including better on-farm management of fertiliser and animal waste, biomass heating from local fuel stocks and small-scale renewable energy generation appropriate within the protected landscape.
NR 14	Support and encourage greater domestic and commercial energy efficiency.
NR 15	Engage with opportunities to improve the availability and accessibility of sustainable modes of transport (e.g. bus and rail services, cycling) recognising in particular the health benefits of active modes (walking, cycling, riding etc) and promote use their use.
NR 16	Encourage greater use of timber in construction from sustainable woodland and in particular short local supply chains to support forestry, woodland and wood products businesses in the AONB.
NR 17	Promote carbon sequestration as an objective and benefit of habitat creation and management of woodland and permanent grassland.
NR 18	Encourage simple greenhouse gas and carbon accounting to monitor the effectiveness of changes.

theme 6

Development

illustration - including small settlements including thatched house, empty hills, river valley & houses, airfield, church, road network/car, denser housing, wind turbines? business unit(s)



“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 these issues.”

National Planning Policy Framework, 2018

There are 58 residents per km²

in the AONB, compared to 205 per km² in West Berkshire

9 local authorities

cover the AONB area, each one considering the designation within their Local Plans



A Changing Landscape

The North Wessex Downs is a sparsely populated landscape, retaining a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity within the tightly packed South

8.1 The North Wessex Downs are a sparsely populated landscape. The population density of 58 residents per km² across the AONB compares to an average for West Berkshire of 205 per km². The open, largely uninhabited downlands retain a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity, a very special perceptual characteristic within this otherwise densely populated part of southern England. Attractive villages nestle in the river valleys of the Pang, Bourne, Kennet and Lambourn and cluster in the low-lying land to the east of the AONB. High environmental quality makes strong direct and indirect contributions to the wider regional economy.

8.2 Despite the relatively low population density, there are development pressures on the North Wessex Downs. This is due to its location within South East England and its proximity to London. There is a need to manage these pressures with sensitivity both within and in the setting of the AONB in order to maintain a balance in promoting economic and social viability whilst retaining the character of the North Wessex Downs. Communities need to be economically viable and have adequate housing, amenities and facilities. However, the primary purpose of designation needs to be paramount when considering such issues.

8.3 There is also a need to ensure a consistent approach across the North Wessex Downs. The area extends across nine different local authority areas. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the relevant Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Therefore, the North Wessex Downs looks to its constituent local authorities to consider the designation within their Local Plans. This is set out in the CRoW Act 2000 and National Planning Policy Framework

There are development pressures on the North Wessex Downs ... due to ... its proximity to London

(NPPF). To assist its local authority partners the North Wessex Downs AONB Unit will:

- ▶ actively engage in the policy making process;
- ▶ provide advice on specific planning applications and appeals; and
- ▶ provide guidance through its Management Plan and Position Statements.

Relationship with the National Planning Policy Framework

8.4 The National Planning Policy Framework provides specific guidance for plan makers and decision takers in relation to AONBs.ⁱ It states that 'great weight' should be given to conserving their landscape and scenic beauty and that these designated areas have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. It further states that the scale and extent of development in these areas should be limited. In particular major development should not be permitted in AONBs, except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated to be in the public interest. As a general guide to assessing the likely impact of development on the AONB, the North Wessex Downs AONB Unit defines 'major development' as set out in the Town and Country Planning 'Development Management Order'ⁱⁱ This approach provides the basis to decide whether NPPF paragraph 172 is relevant in terms of impact on the area in a local context. Footnote 6 to NPPF paragraph 11 (restricting the presumption in favour of sustainable development in AONBs) is pertinent to this principle.

8.5 A key element of the NPPF's 'environmental objective' (supporting the defined purpose of the planning system to contribute to achieving sustainable development) is the protection and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment. To support the overarching purpose and objectives, Local Plans should allocate land for development with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in the NPPF.ⁱⁱⁱ The strategic policies in Local Plans

should set out an overall strategy, and sufficient provision for, the conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure.^{iv}

8.6 The NPPF provides specific guidance on measures protect, restore and enhance biodiversity assets and to secure measurable net gains for biodiversity, setting out principles to avoid a significant harm to biodiversity.^v Local Plan policies should clearly differentiate between land within and outside AONBs. Recognition of the special qualities of the North Wessex Downs by local authority partners will strengthen Local Plans. The North Wessex Downs AONB Unit will:

- ▶ advise their local authority and neighbourhood planning partners in the preparation of plans;
- ▶ advise on forming decisions on planning applications and appeals; and
- ▶ monitor objectives of Local Plans and development management decisions.



- ▶ provide services to improve the local quality of life;
- ▶ spend money locally;
- ▶ promote community cohesion; and
- ▶ have a smaller environmental footprint (by reducing the transportation of goods from across communities).

8.10 People like to live in a high quality environment. This attracts some businesses as it helps them retain staff. Support for small local businesses will provide local jobs and enhance the rural economy. For example, fast broadband is crucial for a healthy rural economy and we will work with relevant agencies to secure such infrastructure.

i (17 NPPF (2018) paragraph 172.
 ii (18 Statutory Instrument (2010) No. 2184; Section 2(1).
 iii (19 NPPF (2018) paragraph 171.
 iv (20 NPPF (2018) paragraph 20.
 v (21 NPPF (2018) paragraphs 174-177.

Page 71 Marlborough aerial view, X Jones
 Page 72 Local community amenities, X Jones
 Page 73 Rural business, X Jones

Page 69
 The Approach to Development

8.7 The North Wessex Downs AONB Partnership supports pre-application discussions from applicants and with the relevant Local Planning Authorities. The area is a ‘sensitive area’ as defined under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations. Some forms of development may require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).

8.8 The AONB Partnership supports the emerging approach as set out in DEFRA’s 25 Year Environment Plan to extend the scope of the concept to achieve ‘net gain’ through development and to apply this beyond biodiversity to embrace wider natural capital benefits, including the landscape and natural beauty.

Local Economy and Rural Business

8.9 The North Wessex Downs Partnership believes that promoting and supporting local enterprise is a key part of conserving and enhancing the character and special qualities of the AONB. Local businesses are likely to:

- ▶ employ local people;

8.11 Significant employment areas exist within the area, for example the Harwell Campus which is home to the Diamond Light Source, the UK national synchrotron science facility. This is part of 'Science Vale' in Oxfordshire which has a national profile as a centre for science and innovation, and in particular for space technology. As a large, previously developed area, partly designated as Enterprise Zone, opportunities exist here for redevelopment and intensification of the site. Where such development occurs, it is important to recognise the AONB purposes and minimise any potentially adverse impacts on the special qualities of the AONB.

Additional Guidance

8.12 When preparing plans and planning applications, those responsible should make reference to:

- ▶ the North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan;
- ▶ relevant AONB Position Statements and Guidance Notes;
- ▶ the North Wessex Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment; and
- ▶ the Historic Landscape Character Assessment.

Planning Conditions, Community Infrastructure Levy and Mitigation

8.13 It may be possible to overcome a planning objection to a development proposal by imposing a condition on the planning permission or by entering into a planning obligation (a 'Section 106 Agreement'). Where this is appropriate, we may recommend planning conditions or a legal agreement to secure control over development and/or forms of mitigation. This will align with tests as set out in National Planning Policy Framework and supporting Planning Guidance and will be secured by our local authority Partners in forming decisions on planning applications.

8.14 We will seek financial contributions through Section 106 Agreements where possible to mitigate harmful impacts on the special qualities of the AONB arising from new developments. We will also seek to access Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds from

local authority partners to support identified landscape, ecological, community, green infrastructure and environmental projects.

Remoteness and Tranquillity

8.15 The sense of remoteness and tranquillity is fundamental to the character of the North Wessex Downs. It is central to the enjoyment and appreciation of the landscape. Dark night skies in the AONB contrast dramatically with surrounding urban areas. The absence of artificial light allows the full majesty of the night skies and stars to be appreciated unimpeded by the orange night time glow of our major urban areas. Light pollution can impact on wildlife, such as foraging bats. In some parts of the area there is already an ambient level of noise associated with transport networks and machinery. A certain level of activity and noise will always be expected within a largely farmed landscape and within the urban areas of the area.

8.16 These special perceptual qualities are a fragile resource and under threat from a combination of factors, including major development, such as wind turbines, intruding into the open Downland. Concerns raised by local residents and users of the landscape over loss of these special perceptual qualities will inform decisions on particular development proposals. New uses or new developments that individually or cumulatively result in a material increase in lighting, noise and or activity into the countryside are likely to be opposed.

Sensitivities and Constraints of the Landscape to Wind Turbines

8.17 The North Wessex Downs Partnership commissioned a study to identify the sensitivities and constraints of the landscape to wind turbines. This work reveals that all Landscape Types within the area are constrained to a degree. There are specific sensitivities and values that would be adversely affected by such forms of development.

8.18 Four landscape types (Open Downland; High Chalk Plain; Downs Plain and Scarp; and River Valleys) are considered to be highly constrained in relation to wind turbine development,

where sensitivities to this form of development are high and any wind turbine is likely to have adverse impacts:

8.19 The remaining Landscapes Types (Downland with Woodland; Wooded Plateau; Vales; and Lowland Mosaic) are considered to be moderately to highly constrained in relation to wind turbine development. The particular landscape characteristics and configuration of these Landscape Types is such that it may be possible to find locations that are less constrained to some types of turbine development, although these locations are likely to be limited.

Other Renewable Energy Projects

8.20 As a response to climate change, there is a need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The security of energy supplies is also a concern. These factors are likely to lead to an increase in renewable energy generation. There are already many well established and sensitively located forms of renewable energy projects across the area. These include:

- ▶ micro-generation on individual residential and commercial properties;
- ▶ photovoltaic installations (some up to 1 ha in area);
- ▶ on farm bio-digesters;
- ▶ wood-fuel boilers; and
- ▶ hydro-electric generation projects within water courses.

8.21 Further information is contained with the North Wessex Downs AONB Position Statement on Renewable Energy concerning the likely acceptability of differing forms of renewable energy projects.

Green Infrastructure

8.22 'Green infrastructure' (GI) is the network of multi-functional open spaces and other environmental features, including parks and gardens, woodlands, green corridors, watercourses and water bodies ('blue spaces'), street trees and open countryside. There is an opportunity for new development to secure and enhance the area's GI network, including through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This will support the sustainable



Page 74 Harwell Campus, X Jones
Page 75 Solar panels, X Jones; Wind turbines, X Jones; Making charcoal, X Jones

Swindon is a sizeable town just outside the AONB, but its Urban Fringe Action Plan impacts on the area

The M4 and A34 are the main arteries in the North Wessex Downs, connecting to smaller A roads and rural lanes

management of natural resources; the delivery of sustainable development; biodiversity enhancement through habitat connectivity; local flood management; and the provision of opportunities to improve health and well-being through access to green and blue spaces. Schemes that improve links, including in particular public rights of way, for walkers, cyclists, riders, and carriage drivers, as well as securing biodiversity and landscape enhancements will be supported. Where appropriate, new and existing GI features should provide the greatest range of functions possible to maximise benefits for people and wildlife.

Urban Fringe and Setting

8.23 A number of sizable and expanding towns lie just outside the North Wessex Downs. In the west, the most notable is Swindon for which there is a specific strategy: the Swindon Urban Fringe Action Plan. This includes a part of the North Wessex Downs and notes that the agricultural economy close to Swindon is under pressure. Due to uncertainty over the future, marginal viability and urban pressures (including vandalism and litter dumping) it concludes that it could become an area of immense opportunity and multiple uses. However, targeted action is required to deliver this potential.

8.24 There are other proposals for growth outside the boundary but within the setting of the North Wessex Downs. These include developments at Wantage, Didcot, Andover and Devizes. The potential for harm on the setting of the area from large-scale urban extensions is substantial. Any new uses or development proposed outside but within the setting of the area should consider the North Wessex Downs AONB Position Statement on Setting. Proposals should include detailed measures to mitigate against harm on and into the area. Forms of mitigation may include strategic landscape buffers, restrictions on building heights, care over massing and scale, care over roofscape design, or avoidance of development in the most exposed locations.

Built Environment and New Housing

8.25 The North Wessex Downs AONB Partnership's approach to the provision of new housing is set out in the AONB Housing Position Statement. This states that in general, strategic levels



of new housing within the AONB should be avoided except in exceptional circumstances, in line with national planning policy.^{vi} Land of least environmental or amenity value situated outside the protected landscape and its setting should be the first choice for development. Only where it is necessary to meet appropriate local needs will new housing be supported. This should be within existing settlements, preferably on previously developed sites. Good design and siting of all new developments in the North Wessex Downs is essential. They should reflect the local landscape character and architecture and make use of local materials.

8.26 The Position Statement also states that there will only be support for new open market housing development on greenfield land on the edges of Marlborough, Hungerford, Lambourn, Pewsey, and Pangbourne. In other areas there will be strict tests to minimise the impact on the landscape. In a far more limited role, small scale housing sites within or on the edges of the secondary larger villages may be supported where all landscape and other planning issues have been resolved. The provision of affordable homes through exception site policies could also be



possible in these locations. Need has to be demonstrated and landscape and environmental harm minimised.

8.27 Housing may also be delivered through the Neighbourhood Plan process. Such provision should still be in general conformity with any Core Strategy and be appropriate in terms of landscape and environmental impact.

Highways Infrastructure

8.28 The M4 (London to Wales) and the A34 (Southampton to Oxford) form the main arteries in a wider network of A-roads crossing the North Wessex Downs. Yet the overall impression is of a relatively sparse road network underlining the historical and current lack of settlement on the open downlands. The only part to have a dense network of winding rural lanes is the well wooded Hampshire Downs and the lowlands to the north east of Newbury – both areas with a Medieval settlement pattern.

More could be done to find ... sensitive solutions to the maintenance of the ... highway network

8.29 More could be done to find imaginative and sensitive solutions to the maintenance of the existing highway network and the design of new roads. These should be sympathetic to the character and qualities of the North Wessex Downs. Many rural lanes have a rich character of their own. The challenge is to retain that character whilst meeting modern highway safety needs. Particular problems occur when urban solutions are imposed on the rural setting. This results in a loss of local character and the addition of lighting and clutter. The North Wessex Downs team will collaborate with the Highways Authorities to improve the existing highway environment and seek improvements to proposed new schemes. The development of new private driveways should retain rural character and to reflect the historic qualities of settlements.

8.30 The North Wessex Downs AONB Unit has contributed to work that is helping to reduce the impact of highways infrastructure, such as through the Avebury World Heritage Site Transport Strategy. A Position Statement on Highways Design and Management will be produced to help provide guidance on this issue.

Minerals and Waste

8.31 It is national policy to avoid landbanks of non-energy minerals in AONBs.^{vii} Mineral schemes that are major developments within the area should be refused planning permission unless it can be demonstrated that there are exceptional circumstances and that the development is in the public interest.^{viii}

8.32 Waste proposals should substantially be meeting local needs. They should be of a scale relevant to the proposal and avoid greenfield sites. Any new facilities should be consistent with an up-to-date Local Plan, as defined in the National Planning Policy for Waste.

vi (22 NPPF (2018) paragraph 172.
vii (23 NPPF (2018) paragraph 205(a).
viii (24 NPPF (2018) paragraph 172.

Page 76 Cycling in green space, X Jones
Page 77 Rural lane, X Jones



AONB Special Qualities: Development

8.33 The sense of **remoteness and tranquillity** that comes from an undeveloped and rural quality with only limited human intervention, containing typically modest villages with distinctive and ancient settlement patterns:

- ▶ The **Open Downlands, Downland with Woodland and High Chalk Plateau** areas are generally very sparsely populated, containing scattered isolated farms, equestrian establishments or small hamlets sheltering in the dry valleys and folds of the chalk upland.
- ▶ **Wooded Plateau** contains a distinct pattern of settlement comprising a remote 'uninhabited'



western plateau, smaller settlements such as Froxfield and a concentration of villages in the east of the area, in the valley of the River Dun.

- ▶ In the **Downs Plain and Scarp** character area, attractive springline villages cluster along the base of the Northern ridge or along the valley of Avebury Plain. 20th century military installations, including Wroughton Airfield and a First World War camp near Draycot Foliat, are dominant and defining features of the area.
- ▶ The **Vales** are settled landscapes with a concentration of compact small towns, clustered villages, hamlets and many dispersed residential and farm buildings, while the River Valleys display a concentration of nucleated and linear settlement including tiny hamlets clustered around a church, many small villages and market towns.
- ▶ The Lowland Mosaic remains one of the most densely settled landscape types, with a diverse range of settlements ranging from large manor houses, villages, numerous hamlets and lines of houses along the roads and lanes.

- 8.34 **Distinctive architectural styles** that vary throughout the AONB but within specific areas create a sense of place and vernacular local character due to the availability of local building materials and traditional building styles. This includes traditional knapped flint and brick, timber framed farm buildings, thatch and tiled roofs, use of Sarsen Stone, blue flint and tile and clunch and cobb walls.
- 8.35 A **sparse road network**, but there is good access from a number of economically significant towns such as Swindon, Andover, Whitchurch, Basingstoke, Reading, Devizes, Newbury and Didcot resulting in an economy that is largely 'outward looking' towards these 'boundary towns' and beyond.
- 8.36 Within the North Wessex Downs, the **traditional land based and rural economy** contrasts with a growing high tech and creative sector.



Development: Key Issues, AONB Strategic Objectives and Policies

Development in the North Wessex Downs faces a range of challenges, which this Plan will address through the implementation of key objectives and policies

8.37 Key Issues

Key issues with the potential to have significant influence on the AONB's Development Special Qualities:

- a) The threat of expansion of the main urban areas just beyond the boundary of the North Wessex Downs, including the main centres of Swindon, Wantage, Didcot, Reading, Newbury, Basingstoke, Andover, and Devizes for example creating urban fringe pressures and impact on the setting of the AONB.
- d) New large free-standing dwellings as replacement dwellings in the open countryside.
- e) The change of use of land to domestic garden use.
- d) The loss of rural character through suburbanising influences from new development (new fencing, lighting, signage, parking areas, paved footpaths, loss of native hedgerows and creation of new garden areas).
- e) New housing developments on greenfield sites.
- f) The threat of incremental housing development outside settlements from conversions, redevelopments or rural workers accommodation which are not clearly justified to be beneficial.
- g) Impact on dark skies and tranquillity of high-powered external lighting, especially where poorly directed or in an exposed location (not usually subject to planning control).
- h) Potential for certain forms of development to intrude on the wider landscape, including masts, pylons, wind turbine developments, photovoltaic schemes, and minerals and

waste schemes, threatening the senses of remoteness and tranquillity, and landscape quality and heritage assets.

- i) Potential for harm from smaller wind turbine developments if poorly located in exposed locations in landscapes recognised for their sensitivity to this form of development.
- j) Unsuitable development of redundant previously developed and part-developed sites within the North Wessex Downs, especially redundant airfields and military sites (e.g. as at Wroughton), and the impact upon landscape quality and heritage assets.
- k) New developments at the junction of the M4 and A34 or along their corridors which spread the impact from development yet further into the undeveloped parts of the AONB.
- l) Impact from the racing industry from new gallops and facilities where inappropriately located and or designed.
- m) Impact from equestrian uses and structures generally where new development is expansive in area, in greenfield locations, poorly designed and/or located on exposed sites.

The expansion of the main urban areas just outside the AONB creates pressure on the area

High-powered external lighting impacts on the dark skies and tranquillity of the AONB



- n) Substantial new farm buildings where unjustified, poorly designed and or located in exposed locations.
- o) Development that results in a material loss of tranquillity and/or impact on the dark night skies within the North Wessex Downs or its setting.
- p) Development that does not provide for or support existing Green Infrastructure.
- q) Development that does not provide for appropriate mitigation (including through the Community Infrastructure Levy)
- r) New noise-creating activities, for example from quad or bike courses, microlights, shooting schools, kennels, new industrial, minerals or waste operations.
- s) The illegal dumping of rubbish.
- t) Large-scale new commercial uses or inappropriate farm diversification projects.
- u) New road building and route upgrades, including the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway development.
- v) Impact of road signage, street lighting and other highway clutter on landscape character, including within settlements. Measures which have an urbanising effect on AONB character and are thus generally inappropriate include: oversized, multiple and yellow-backed road signs; new street lighting in previously unlit locations; lighting that allows spillage or glare; road markings; concrete kerbing; illuminated bollards; fencing; and elaborate traffic-calming schemes.
- w) Opportunities to reduce costs and maintain or restore the character of rural roads through adoption of a low-key rural design approach to roads across AONB.

8.38 AONB Strategic Objectives for 2019-2024: Development

- S.14 Ensure that the formulation and implementation of planning policies across the North Wessex Downs takes full account of the purposes for AONB designation, the character and the special qualities of the North Wessex Downs and its setting.
- S.15 Advise on appropriate sustainable development that in itself conserves and enhances the environment through the planning system in the context of this nationally protected landscape.



8.39 AONB Policies: Development

DE 01	Encourage all proposals for new development, redevelopment and re-use to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the North Wessex Downs. Oppose forms of development that fail to conserve and enhance the character and quality of the AONB and its setting and to make reference to the AONB's published guidance.
DE 02	Encourage high standards of design, comprehensive landscaping where required, traditional building styles, energy conservation and innovation that respect historic settlement patterns and the distinctive character of the North Wessex Downs.
DE 03	Encourage Local Plans, Supplementary Planning Documents and other policies to take account of the statutory protection of the AONB, in terms of location of development affecting the AONB and its setting, and specific AONB policy.
DE 04	Support the need for Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents and other policies to address issues such as landscape impact, local character, materials and historic structure and scale of settlements.
DE 05	Encourage the consideration of landscape, including historic landscape, impacts at the earliest opportunity in the planning process through preparation of Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports as appropriate to the location.
DE 05 bis	Encourage, support and promote the expansion of 'net gain' principles developed for biodiversity, to apply to wider natural capital assets, including in particular to landscape and natural beauty.
DE 06	Resist noise-generating developments and activities both within the AONB and its setting.
DE 07	Avoid and reduce light pollution, including control of lighting schemes or other developments that threaten the integrity of dark night skies within the North Wessex Downs.
DE 08	Encourage, support and promote good practice in the design and management of roads in the AONB and its setting that conserves and enhances the character of the landscape and settlements.
DE 09	Support appropriate and sustainable farm diversification activities where planning applications are supported by a whole farm plan and linked to design guidance.
DE 10	Encourage the use of planning briefs or master plans which guide developments within and on the edge of the North Wessex Downs and take account of AONB purposes.
DE 11	Encourage the retention of existing and provision of new 'Green Infrastructure'. Ensure that 'Green Infrastructure' (including new or enhanced biodiversity assets) is incorporated within the area of all 'major developments', both within and in the setting of the AONB.
DE 12	Support the development of strategies and integrated projects to manage the pressures and opportunities presented by the AONB's close proximity to its surrounding urban centres.
DE 13	Work with local communities to increase capacity and involvement in development processes.
DE 14	Support local communities to engage with local and national planning policy consultations.
DE 15	Encourage local communities to identify local needs and assist in the conservation and enhancement of local distinctiveness through the preparation and development of Neighbourhood Plans, Parish Plans, Village Design Statements, Neighbourhood Development Orders and other initiatives.
DE 16	Encourage economic growth, new responsible tourism opportunities and diversification of the local economy within the overall aim of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB.
DE 17	Support broadband rollout where the installation of new equipment is in accordance with the national code of practice on siting of cabinets and masts and appropriate consideration is given to AONB purposes.
DE 18	Support training courses to encourage businesses within the North Wessex Downs to adopt sustainable approaches consistent with AONB objectives
DE 19	Resist developments that would substantially increase traffic volume in sensitive areas.
DE 20	Encourage local planning authorities to use powers available to them under Section 106 of Town & Country Planning Act, Community Infrastructure Levy and similar legislation to achieve the North Wessex Downs Management Plan objectives and activities.
DE 21	Support economic activities that embrace sustainable development principles at a scale and nature compatible with the special qualities of the North Wessex Downs.
DE 22	Support initiatives that seek to add value to land-based products sympathetic to the natural beauty of the AONB.

theme 7

Communities

illustration - including settlement of houses & cottages,
people, signage, roads/train/travel, army, business properties
or rural enterprise/farm shop signage



“Don’t be led away to think this part of the world important and that unimportant. Every corner of the world is important. No man knows whether this part or that is most so, but every man may do some honest work in his own corner.”

Thomas Hughes (1822-1896)

173 settlements

with Parish Councils exist in the North Wessex Downs, and two market towns

100,800 people live in the AONB, with approximately 48% of those recorded as in employment in 2011

Page 77 Lambourn, X Jones
Page 78 Canal boat, X Jones
Page 53 Bus station, X Jones



A Landscape for Living

In the North Wessex Downs, there is a clear relationship between land stewardship, community, the economy and natural beauty, which combine to give the area its special character

9.1 The North Wessex Downs are not a wilderness. They are a distinct and recognisable area arising from a long history of human occupation and the sustainable use of their natural resources. There is a clear relationship between land stewardship, community, the economy and natural beauty; these features and functions combine to give the area its special character.

9.2 Within the North Wessex Downs there are 173 settlements with parish councils and two market towns, Marlborough and Hungerford. The total population of the AONB is just over 100,800 with approximately 48,500 (48%) recorded as being in employment (2011 Census). Around 30% of the active workforce is employed within the AONB; 60% commute to the surrounding urban areas and London, assisted by good rail connections. Many villages are now largely occupied by those commuting out of the area to work. This has stimulated rapidly rising house prices with very significant pressure placed on the affordable housing stock. In addition, villages are now left with a significantly reduced population during the day, undermining the viability of village services such as post offices, pubs and doctors' surgeries. There is a need for a broad mix of housing to maintain sustainable communities and support village services.

9.3 To have sustainable communities in the North Wessex Downs they must be places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. Sustainable communities should be:

- ▶ Vibrant and inclusive, with many community networks in place that bring people together for leisure and peer support purposes.
- ▶ In charge of their own destiny, able to identify their

own issues and access the skills and support needed to address them

- ▶ Places that promote and enable the health and wellbeing of everyone and provide straightforward access to the services and facilities needed by people of all ages
- ▶ Able to appreciate the unique nature of their environment and contribute towards its sustainability.

9.4 A number of parishes in the North Wessex Downs have undertaken community-led planning and the number of Neighbourhood Plans in the AONB is rising rapidly. Community-led plans include actions relevant to the social, economic and environmental objectives of the North Wessex Downs. We support this approach and provide advice and support to parishes where requested.

9.5 Most North Wessex Downs residents have poor access to services when compared to regional averages.

9.6 The North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust was established in 2016 "To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and its setting. [and] To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment." It has the potential to play an increasingly important role in the wider (non-statutory) partnership that works to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the North Wessex Downs AONB.

A broad mix of housing [is needed] to maintain sustainable communities and support village services

Employment and Training

9.7 The majority of the local economy is part of a larger 'urban economy'. Many businesses benefit from the area's high landscape quality to either attract staff or customers. Only 5% of the economically active population of the North Wessex Downs is directly involved in agriculture. Where buildings have been

re-used as part of economic activities, many of the new uses relate to high-tech industries. Small village industrial estates, such as that at Inkpen, are dominated by businesses whose employees commute in from surrounding areas. This is also true of employees in the horse racing industry.

9.8 The current fundamental changes in the area's land-based economy are requiring new skills and the re-learning of old skills. There is a need to understand, define and then meet training and education needs. Support comes from:

- ▶ National Training Organisations (such as LANTRA representing the land-based sector);
- ▶ Further education and training colleges;
- ▶ Representatives of community groups.

Travel and Transport

9.9 Local communities and visitors need access to services – a key issue for social inclusion. That access should be sustainable. The North Wessex Downs is within easy reach of three mainline railways:

- ▶ The Waterloo to Exeter line with stations at Basingstoke, Overton, Whitchurch and Andover;
- ▶ The Paddington to Penzance line with stations at Kintbury, Hungerford, Bedwyn and Pewsey (and a rail-bus link from Marlborough to Bedwyn);
- ▶ The Paddington to Bristol and South Wales line with stations at Pangbourne, Goring, Cholsey, and Didcot.

9.10 Outside the main towns that ring the North Wessex Downs, bus services are limited. Although the distribution of bus routes suggests that rural areas are well served, many of these services run only infrequently. However, a number of innovative and flexible community transport schemes are operating within the North Wessex Downs. These often rely on the support of charitable funding and volunteers.



AONB Special Qualities: Communities

- 9.11 Containing a **dispersed and small population** spread over a large area, the majority live in the small villages and the two market towns of Marlborough and Hungerford with the high downs including large expanses, without any significant habitation. The number of young people within villages is declining as they leave to relocate to areas with better service provision and cheaper housing, resulting in a higher proportion of middle aged and elderly people.
- 9.12 Unemployment is low and **economic activity** rates are high, with many jobs in high value-added industries within a short journey from villages in the AONB. Swindon, Newbury and Basingstoke in particular have developed international reputations within the ICT industry with some of the lowest unemployment rates in the country. The economic influence London, the Thames Valley and north Hampshire is most keenly felt to the south east and east of the AONB and in particular those villages with good access to mainline stations.
- 9.13 The **Armed Forces** still play a significant role in the local economy, especially in places such as Tidworth and Ludgershall to the south of the AONB on the Wiltshire Hampshire border.
- 9.14 **Good access to the wider area** and road network means that much of the AONB is highly accessible to commuters working in the adjacent towns. The east of the AONB has a greater pressure on housing stock and recruitment in West Berkshire, Basingstoke and Deane and South Oxfordshire.
- 9.15 A well-structured and resourced **farming industry**, with substantial assets of land, machinery, knowledge and entrepreneurial ability. Many examples of diversification into food processing, tourism and provision of space for economic activity can be seen across the North Wessex Downs.
- 9.16 Villages and small towns with a **strong sense of identity and well-being** linked to the historic landscape, active and resourceful community groups.
- 9.17 There is a strong local resonance and **affinity with the landscape** of the North Wessex Downs, particularly the individual downs and the river valleys and other outstanding features.



Communities: Key Issues, AONB Strategic Objectives and Policies

Communities in the North Wessex Downs face a range of challenges which this Plan will address through the implementation of key objectives and policies

9.18 Key Issues

- a) Widespread lack of awareness of the North Wessex Downs AONB among local residents and businesses.
- b) The towns which surround the AONB are all expected to accommodate significant housing and employment development in the next 20 years.
- c) Increased volumes of traffic or an increasing demand for quicker journey times may lead to pressure for road widening and other 'improvement' schemes on roads in the AONB.
Greater prosperity enjoyed by some people leads to other environmental impacts such as more over-flights by aircraft, more use of roads and rights of way for motorised leisure pursuits, and increased demand for second homes.
- e) Loss of affordable housing, reducing the social mix within settlements and leading to a loss of essential rural skills and services.
- f) Potential changes in demographic profile, social exclusion, access to services and loss of public transport routes and other key facilities.
- g) The trend of commuting to higher paid jobs outside the AONB whilst living in the area is resulting in rising house prices.
- h) High demand for traditional buildings to convert to residential use, so reducing the opportunities for business conversions.
- i) The positive benefits of a strong and active community spirit in many AONB communities, including a rich artistic and cultural life.

- j) Perceived limitations on opportunities for businesses in inaccessible locations.
- k) Opportunities and risks for the AONB associated with new instruments such as Neighbourhood Plans, which may form an increasingly important element of local decision-making
- l) Financial pressures reducing the ability for town and parish councils to participate in partnerships and community activities.
- m) Lack of understanding of the impacts of daily life style decisions on the environment of the North Wessex Downs – from individual travel decisions to the use of water as if it were an unlimited natural resource.
- n) Increasing volume of HGVs, delivery vans and commuter traffic on rural lanes. 'Rat-running' on minor lanes to escape congestion on the main arterial roads.
- o) Government requirements that businesses running apprenticeship schemes must have business premises (many traditional land-based contractors do not have formal business premises).
- p) The need for better understanding and awareness of the links between high environmental quality and ecosystem services and local business.
- q) There are opportunities to increase involvement in local community activities to improve social cohesion and sense of belonging.
- r) The need for local sources of employment and opportunities for local people to develop skills that could support them into self-employment or enterprise.
- s) The need for a wide range of skills training for land managers and other rural enterprises within the North Wessex Downs.

House prices are rising as more people commute and buy second homes, reducing affordable housing

Traffic increases on rural lanes to escape congestion elsewhere puts pressure on the environment





*9.19 AONB Strategic Objectives for 2019-2024:
Natural Resources*

- S.16 Support the development of the North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust in pursuit of its charitable purposes to promote actions which underpin the conservation and enhancement of the AONB.
- S.17 Support and facilitate community-led initiatives that help deliver AONB purposes and Management Plan objectives.
- S.18 Encourage an enhanced sense of respect and pride in the North Wessex Downs amongst local people and their increased participation in activities that raise the understanding and profile of the AONB.
- S.19 Assist the development of connectivity, based on principles of planning and integrating multi-functional green infrastructure assets, from neighbouring urban areas, facilitating active and sustainable access to the AONB to make it easier for these communities to experience and benefit from the natural beauty of the North Wessex Downs.

9.20 AONB Policies: Communities

CO 01	Support efforts to raise the profile of the North Wessex Downs AONB among communities within and surrounding the area.
CO 02	Provide parishes and all other relevant community groups and individuals with information and training as necessary to raise awareness of the special qualities of the AONB and the need to conserve and enhance it.
CO 03	Encourage, support and celebrate local communities' engagement in the planning, conservation and enhancement of their local environment, protecting its natural beauty and enhancing the sense of local pride and ownership.
CO 04	Support projects to promote community use of renewable energy sources consistent with AONB objectives.
CO 05	Publicise relevant community activities and events across the North Wessex Downs.
CO 06	Support community initiatives aimed at retaining rural services, including the combining of services where this will improve their viability.
CO 07	Support initiatives to foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the AONB landscape in local schools and encourage greater connectivity with nature and the environment in line with proposals in DEFRA's 25 Year Environment Plan.
CO 08	Support initiatives to address the specific needs of different groups within and around the AONB, such as access to training and social activities for young people and engagement with under-represented disadvantaged groups.
CO 09	Support provision of reliable and affordable broadband and mobile telephone connections throughout the North Wessex Downs in ways that respect the special qualities of the area.
CO 10	Ensure the development and implementation of transport plans and programmes addresses the needs of North Wessex Downs communities, reduces transport impacts on the environment, and conserves and enhances the special qualities of the landscape.
CO 11	Support measures to provide integrated passenger transport, including easily accessible information, across the North Wessex Downs that serves the needs of local people and visitors.
CO 12	Secure Travel Plans for new developments with significant traffic generation within the North Wessex Downs to encourage active and sustainable travel.
CO 13	Support good practice examples of community approaches that respond to locally identified needs and promote them as an inspiration to others (e.g. the establishment of local housing trusts, support for new village shops, community transport schemes, etc).
CO 14	Support communities in landscape-led approaches to enabling the availability of housing for identified local needs that will be – and will remain – genuinely affordable in perpetuity, consistent with AONB purposes.



Page 83 Training young people, X Jones; Rural enterprise, X Jones; Building new houses, X Jones

Tourism, Leisure and Access

illustration - including walkers/contemplators/
wildlife-watchers, monuments, canal, historic house,
small row of shops, fence/gate/path etc



“Out on that almost trackless expanse of billowy Downs such a track is in some sort humanly companionable; it really seems to lead you by the hand.”

Kenneth Grahame (1859-1932)

Tourist attractions

include Avebury World Heritage Site, Uffington White Horse, the Ridgeway and Thames Path, and the Kennet and Avon Canal

2,200 full time jobs

are supported by visitors to the AONB



A Landscape for Leisure

The magical landscape of the North Wessex Downs has attracted naturalists, antiquarians and travellers throughout history

Tourism and Leisure

10.1 The North Wessex Downs is a landscape rich in historic sites and natural features. This magical landscape has attracted naturalists, antiquarians and travellers throughout history. Tourist attractions of international renown within the North Wessex Downs include the 25 km² (9.6 square miles) Avebury World Heritage Site (taking in Avebury Village, the Avebury Henge complex, as well as Silbury Hill, Windmill Hill and the West Kennet long barrow); the White Horse at Uffington; the Ridgeway and Thames Path National Trails; and the Kennet and Avon Canal providing a strategic waterways link between the Thames and Bristol Channel. But it is the spectacular scenery, highly attractive villages, and sense of isolation that are the primary recreational and tourism attractions of the area.

10.2 Although not large in number, there is a range of paying visitor attractions within the North Wessex Downs. These include Basildon Park, Lower Basildon (run by the National Trust) and Highclere Castle, near Newbury (owned by the Earl of Carnarvon), the Crofton Beam Engines and Pumping Station on the Kennet and Avon Canal at Great Bedwyn and the Living Rainforest environmental centre at Hampstead Norreys. There are many more attractions that could benefit from greater collective promotion and support.

10.3 Despite its close proximity to major areas of population, the North Wessex Downs is not well used as a place for quiet enjoyment. Green tourism offers enormous opportunities for the North Wessex Downs and a good business reason for conserving and enhancing the landscape. There may be opportunities for the tourism sector to support investment in rights of way

improvements and the provision of accommodation, facilities and information.

10.4 At present, visitors to the AONB directly support around 2,200 full time jobs. Of all visitors, 18% are from overseas, most of whom are travelling for business purposes and stay for a single night, during Monday-Thursday. Well over 90% of all foreign visitors are either business or family related. Nearly half of all visitors to the area stay with family or friends. The average length of stay by UK visitors is two days and it is estimated that a visitor spends an additional £27 in the North Wessex Downs. More than half of all serviced accommodation providers are un-graded for quality. There is potential to improve the performance of the area as a short break destination. This is especially with the development of bespoke activity packages, such as self-guided off road cycle routes. The area can appeal particularly to affluent young and older couples from London and the Home Counties. That would bring real benefits to the rural economy.

10.5 The North Wessex Downs can be an area for green tourism, with easily accessible information about its wildlife, culture and history, and with many opportunities to explore, on foot, by bike and on horseback. In response the AONB Partnership has implemented two projects, the South East Protected Landscapes 'Our Land' and 'Leader' funded 'Love Your Land' initiative. Through a growing network of tourism businesses it is hoped that the value of the landscape will be reflected more widely in the tourism 'offer'.

Rights of Way and Access

10.6 Access to the countryside is an important part of the lives of people who live in the area and also for visitors as a tourism asset. The importance of using and enjoying woodlands and green spaces as part of an everyday healthy lifestyle has been demonstrated by Forestry Commission research. Exercise in the North Wessex Downs can have positive effects on many aspects of health and well-being. The North Wessex Downs will look to build

Green tourism offers enormous opportunities for the North Wessex Downs

on initiatives such as the circular walks developed in partnership with the Ridgeway National Trail. The lack of convenient public transport imposes limits on the benefits and use of the resource.

10.7 Access and the needs of recreational users must be balanced with land managing interests, as well as other issues such as conservation. Greater and easier access should be encouraged where this can be achieved without undue cost to conservation or the landowner's use of the land. There may be opportunities from the growth of settlements on the fringes of the North Wessex Downs to offset some of the impact through improving and extending access.

10.8 The CRoW Act established access land which the public has the right to enjoy under certain conditions. There are 1,189 ha of open access land and 694 ha of registered commons in the North Wessex Downs. There are also permissive arrangements by which landowners grant access voluntarily or as part of inheritance tax agreements. At present some of this access can be difficult to determine due to the patchwork nature of its provision. In addition, there are 100 hectares of National Trust land to which there is access. An analysis of accessible natural greenspace provision in South East England a decade ago (February 2007) found that the North Wessex Downs AONB had the smallest proportion of all accessible natural greenspace (4% of the total) across the South East Protected Landscapes. No more recent data have been uncovered to indicate whether this has changed in recent years.

10.9 Of the accessible natural greenspace, 59% was woodland. In general woodlands with open or partial access are owned by either the Forestry Commission, the Woodland Trust or the National Trust. A surprising 69% of the woodland area has a public right of way either crossing through or along one edge of a woodland. However, 'open access' to woodland is at a different scale. Just 14% of the total AONB woodland area has open access.

10.10 One of the most important resources of the North Wessex Downs is its extensive rights of way network, providing access to some of the most spectacular views and secluded valleys in southern England. Not only does it underpin the recreational and tourism sectors but also affords some opportunities for sustainable and safe journeys to school and work. Important



Page 85 Family walk, X Jones
 Page 86 The Living Rainforest, X Jones
 Page 87 Walk through bluebells, X Jones

national and regional walking routes within the North Wessex Downs are set out in the Table below. In addition, a very large number of other paths are promoted as recreational walking routes by the National Trust, Partner local authorities, and the Ramblers Association.

Route name	Distance within the AONB	
	kilometres	miles
Ridgeway National Trail	88	55
Thames Path National Trail	14	9
Test Way	22	14
Wayfarers Walk	27	17
Lambourn Valley Way	29	18
Kennet and Avon Canal towpath	48	30

Table: Walking routes of National and Regional significance in the North Wessex Downs

Page 88 Wayfaring event, X Jones

Page 89 Celebrating the Downs, X Jones;
Local produce, X Jones



10.11 There are a large number of advertised cycle routes (on and off-road) that pass through the area, taking advantage of quiet lanes, byways and bridleways. Route 4 of the Sustrans National Cycle Network also runs for 47 km (29 miles) through the North Wessex Downs, in part following the Kennet and Avon Canal towpath.

10.12 The 'Three Downs Link' is a multi-user recreational route connecting The Ridgeway with the South Downs Way, utilised by horse riders, alongside cyclists and walkers. The Ridgeway is promoted as a National Trail for horse-riding. There are a number of shorter riding routes promoted by the British Horse Society that utilise the Ridgeway and link with the much wider multi-use network. Responsible recreational cycling and horse riding are two of the key activities to encourage in the North Wessex Downs. Supporting the provision of facilities such as accommodation with access to stables or drying rooms and the construction of bike wash facilities and cycle hubs are examples of how this could be achieved.

10.13 The CRoW Act requires every county and unitary authority to set out their plans for improvement of the Rights of Way network. This is through the production of a 'Rights of Way Improvement Plan' (ROWIP; sometimes called a Countryside Management Plan or a Countryside Access Improvement Plan). These plans set out how an authority will maintain countryside access resources and take opportunities for improving and promoting access to the countryside. The North Wessex Downs Partnership supports the work of the Wiltshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Mid- and West Berkshire Local Access Forums (LAFs).

Strategic development in relation to the 'London City Region'

10.14 An initiative of the South East and East Protected Landscapes Group (SEPLG) brings together the dozen AONBs and National Parks which surround London. These provide the basis for an interconnected network of valuable green spaces stretching from central London across south east England, and an opportunity to collaborate at an appropriate scale to promote the enjoyment of, and care for, these diverse, treasured landscapes by the growing population of the City Region.

10.15 The North Wessex Downs is a partner in SEPLG, sharing the seven key objectives in the Group's 25 year vision in relation to the protected landscapes of the London City Region to:

- ▶ conserve their intrinsic value;
- ▶ recognise their ecosystem value;
- ▶ maintain natural buffers;
- ▶ improve access and connections;
- ▶ promote appropriate jobs and industry;
- ▶ support physical and mental health and wellbeing;
- ▶ and engage stakeholders, work together.

AONB Special Qualities: Tourism, Leisure and Access

- 10.16 Offering some of the finest **cultural landscape** in England including chalk downland, river valleys, ancient woodland, historic sites. There is recognition of the landscape in literature and the arts, with locations such as Watership Down, Uffington White Horse and the Wittenham Clumps inspiring well known works.
- 10.17 **Historic attractions** reflecting the industrial and socio-economic history of the area including the Kennet and Avon Canal, Didcot and Swindon Railway Museums, Crofton beam engines and the Wilton Windmill.
- 10.18 **Picturesque market towns** and small villages with independent shops, superb pubs, restaurants and plenty of B&Bs and hotels. A growing reputation for local food and produce.
- 10.19 **Rich archaeological history** and evidence of our ancestors that can be found in greater concentrations than much of the country.
- 10.20 The **great country houses** at Highclere, Basildon Park, Littlecote and Ashdown and the medieval, Norman and Saxon churches.
- 10.21 The **extensive Rights of Way** network offering many opportunities for quiet enjoyment of the countryside away from crowds, by ramblers, cyclists and horse-riders,



including the Thames Path and Ridgeway National Trails, access land, commons and accessible woodland

10.22 A 'hot spot' for antiques between the towns of Hungerford, Marlborough and the village of Pewsey.

Tourism, Leisure and Access: Key Issues, AONB Strategic Objectives and Policies

Tourism, Leisure and Access in the North Wessex Downs faces a range of challenges which this Plan will address through the implementation of key objectives and policies

10.23 Key Issues

Key issues with the potential to have significant influence on the AONB's Tourism, Leisure and Access Special Qualities:

a) The opportunity to raise the profile of North Wessex Downs as a short break destination and the opportunities for quiet recreation and green tourism that it can offer.

- b) Co-ordinated marketing of the North Wessex Downs as a whole remains weak, despite significant progress under the last AONB Management Plan.
- c) Tourism provision in the AONB is fragmented and poorly co-ordinated, supporting few jobs and limited income.
- d) Multiple destination management organisations across the AONB increase fragmentation.
- e) Generally poor (but increasing) recognition amongst AONB communities of the opportunities that association with a landscape of national importance offers for quiet recreation and green tourism and their associated economic benefits, e.g. for local food.
- f) Potential for insensitive, inappropriate or excessive tourism development to harm the special qualities of the AONB landscape.
- g) Popularity of a few 'honeypot' locations with resulting sprawl of car parking, wear and tear on verges and paths, litter and lower enjoyment, and potentially intrusive traffic management measures.
- h) Opportunities arising from changes to the management and promotion of the Ridgeway and Thames Path National Trails.



Limited public transport

links between key attractions and amenities reduces sustainable options

Noise pollution

is associated with certain recreational pursuits, such as trail biking and flying aircraft

- i) Infrequent public transport links to and between points of access, key attractions and accommodation. Very limited services at some railway stations, such as Pewsey, reduces sustainable transport opportunities.
- j) Increasing pressure on funding for management and maintenance of rights of way, poor condition and inadequate waymarking of some rights of way, and poor connectivity of the rights of way network in some areas for circular walks and rides.
- k) Irresponsible use of the rights of way network by motorised vehicles, of particular concern along the route of the Ridgeway.
- l) Noise associated with some recreation pursuits, including that from trail bike courses and powered aircraft, affecting tranquillity and others' enjoyment.
- m) Need to encourage responsible and courteous use, where motorised users have a legitimate right of access that is compatible with AONB purposes, that recognises the needs of other users, for example as promoted by the Trail Riders' Fellowship (TRF).
- n) General lack of facilities for the non-horse owner to gain access to the recreational riding opportunities of the North Wessex Downs.
- o) Lack of indication such as road signs that visitors are entering or in the AONB.
- p) Lack of information and provision for the less able and other disadvantaged groups to access and enjoy the North Wessex Downs.
- q) The predicted growth in the population of London is expected to increase visitors and the associated opportunities for, and pressures on, all protected landscapes in south east England.

Page 90 Photography class, X Jones

10.24 AONB Strategic Objectives for 2019-2024: Tourism, Leisure and Access

- S.20 Facilitate opportunities for more people of all abilities to access and enjoy the North Wessex Downs that respect and promote the special qualities of the area and its setting.
- S.21 Support well managed and sustainable tourism and recreation businesses to promote the North Wessex Downs as a destination for responsible tourism that respects and promotes the special qualities of the AONB and its setting.
- S.22 Encourage an enhanced sense of respect and pride in the North Wessex Downs amongst local people and their increased participation in activities that raise the understanding and profile of the AONB.
- S.23 Work in partnership with other AONBs and National Parks in southern and eastern England to promote the value and contribution of nationally protected landscapes to the future of the 'London City Region'.



10.25 AONB Policies: Tourism, Leisure and Access

TLA 01	Promote a strategic, partnership approach to planning and marketing green tourism and improved countryside access in the North Wessex Downs.
TLA 02	Work with destination management organisations, protected landscapes and other partners to promote responsible tourism in the North Wessex Downs, including through the Great West Way initiative.
TLA 03	Support the development of markets for short break opportunities that emphasise the special qualities of the North Wessex Downs.
TLA 04	Nurture tourism businesses and help to develop tourism network across the North Wessex Downs. Support constructive and community-led projects that benefit the tourism economy.
TLA 05	Promote greater accessibility to the North Wessex Downs for users of all abilities for quiet enjoyment and improved health and well-being.
TLA 06	Encourage the provision of easily accessible information regarding access to and around the North Wessex Downs by public transport.
TLA 07	Identify and promote with relevant partners signs or other ways of indicating to visitors that they are in the North Wessex Downs that do not conflict with AONB purposes.
TLA 08	Encourage greater recognition among commercial transport providers such as train operating companies of the recreational / leisure potential of stations in and around the North Wessex Downs.
TLA 09	Support more and better monitoring of the distribution and demography of visitors and promote management approaches that reduce pressure on sensitive habitats.
TLA 10	Support events such as walking festivals that celebrate the special qualities of the North Wessex Downs, introduce new audiences to the landscape and contribute to a viable visitor economy.
TLA 11	Work with local authorities, Local Access Forums and others to manage and improve the network of public rights of way, ensuring that relevant plans for development and delivery of access to the area take full account of the local distinctiveness, character and quality of the North Wessex Downs and its setting.
TLA 11 bis	Support efforts by user groups to promote and encourage responsible use of rights of way, including byways, consistent with AONB purposes.
TLA 12	Encourage the creation and maintenance of new permissive and definitive routes that link existing routes and enable recreational walkers, cyclists, riders and carriage-drivers to avoid busy roads.
TLA 13	Identify spinal and circular routes to be promoted in AONB publicity that are supported by the recreation and tourism infrastructure e.g. bicycle hire, farmhouse B&B/bunk barns and recreational bus links
TLA 14	Support increased provision and management of accessible greenspace and the promotion of new and existing recreational opportunities in line with AONB purposes.
TLA 14 bis	Recognise and protect those areas which are too sensitive to intrusion or disturbance, for example archaeologically or ecologically, for the promotion of public access.
TLA 15	Support research, tools and projects which support the development of a thriving recreation and tourism sector.
TLA 16	Support initiatives to help communities and businesses reduce the outflow of revenue, retaining and recycling wealth in the area for longer.
TLA 17	Promote and support the vision and activities of the South East Protected Landscapes Group to integrate development of the London City Region with the protection and enhancement of the protected landscapes surrounding the capital.

Stakeholder Responsibilities

Successful implementation

Implementation of the Plan is the responsibility of everyone whose activities affect the special qualities of the North Wessex Downs

The AONB Management Plan belongs to the AONB Partnership, and most of all to the local authority partners which have a statutory duty to produce it. It is not end in itself; success requires implementation. Implementation is not the sole preserve of the AONB Unit; rather it is the responsibility of everyone whose activities affect the special qualities of the landscape. Central among these are all the bodies which, under s.85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, have a statutory Duty of Regard for the purposes for which the AONB was designated: to conserve and enhance its natural beauty.

The following table outlines some of the main stakeholder groups and the principal opportunities for them to contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the North Wessex Downs AONB. This is by no means an exhaustive list and we welcome suggestions for further partners or examples of how these groups can help to deliver the North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2019-24.



Figure X: Stakeholders and Opportunities to Contribute

Partners	Principal Opportunities	Delivery (examples)
Chambers of commerce	North Wessex Downs profile/marketing; tourism; local products.	Member information and events; North Wessex Downs tourism collaboration; Great West Way tourism initiative; local supplier networks; visitor payback.
Consultants and Agents	Awareness, understanding and recognition of the character and sensitivities of the North Wessex Downs landscape.	Sensitivity to the heritage, natural environment, local economy and communities in developing and refining proposals and raising awareness among client base.
Educational institutions	Awareness, deeper understanding and pride in the landscape.	Engagement with landscape through the curriculum; research, collaborative projects; field trips; farm visits; outdoor classrooms/Forest Schools.
Energy companies	Landscape conservation/enhancement; energy conservation; climate change.	Reporting on efforts to conserve and enhance the North Wessex Downs under s.85 Duty of Regard (CRoW Act 2000); customer energy conservation advice; undergrounding or mitigating the impact of powerlines; appropriate renewable energy generation; infrastructure planning, design and management.
Farmers and land managers	Wildlife habitat; landscape character; local food; public awareness and understanding; natural resource management; tourism; responsible access; climate change.	Environmental Land Management Schemes; partnership conservation projects (e.g. farmer-led groups); catchment-sensitive farming; control of outdoor lighting; appropriate diversification projects; farm visits; carbon sequestration; rights of way maintenance; permissive access; appropriate farm-scale renewable energy generation.
Health sector, inc. commissioning bodies, GPs, support groups	Access to the landscape for mental and physical health and well being benefits.	Green prescribing; walking for health; conservation volunteering; projects aimed at specific groups e.g. dementia sufferers; access improvements; public/active transport.
Highway authorities	Road decluttering; landscape character; dark skies; green and active travel/access; tranquillity; climate change; tourism; layout and design of new and redevelopment.	Reporting on efforts to conserve and enhance the North Wessex Downs under s.85 Duty of Regard (CRoW Act 2000); Local transport planning; road maintenance and safety programmes; signs audits; community collaboration e.g. on clutter, speed enforcement, public transport; land use planning; National Trail partnerships; Local Access Forums; Rights of Way Improvement Plans.
Individuals	Natural resources; heritage and nature conservation; water abstraction; dark skies; tranquillity; local products; settlement character; climate change.	Participation in local projects; water and energy conservation; buying local; control of external lighting; conservation gardening; responsible access; green travel; pollution avoidance; planning and design.
Landscape-scale conservation initiatives	Landscape and nature conservation and restoration; ecosystem goods and services; community engagement; climate change.	Identifying local environmental networks; engaging the public, private and voluntary sector in collaborative protection and enhancement of the North Wessex Downs; educating young people and communities regarding the benefits of the natural environment.

Page 387

Continued over page...

Figure X continued: Stakeholders and Opportunities to Contribute

Partners	Principal Opportunities	Delivery (examples)
Local authorities (including planning authorities)	Landscape and nature conservation; historic environment; settlement character; water abstraction; tranquillity; access, rights of way; AONB profile; public awareness and understanding; dark skies; affordable housing; diversification; ecosystem goods and services.	Reporting on efforts to conserve and enhance the North Wessex Downs under s.85 Duty of Regard (CRoW Act 2000); development plans; planning advice, decisions, conditions and enforcement; green travel plans; supplementary planning guidance; AONB signage; rights of way and interpretation; duties specified by NERC Act 2006.
Local businesses	Local products; tourism; North Wessex Downs profile; dark skies; natural resources; climate change.	Local sourcing; marketing; North Wessex Downs tourism promotion; Great West Way tourism initiative; promotion of green/active travel; control of external lighting; energy/water conservation; waste minimisation.
Local Enterprise Partnerships	Landscape and nature conservation and restoration; diversification; sustainable prosperity; local products; ecosystem goods and services; climate change; tourism.	Strategic investment in natural capital and green infrastructure; diversification support programme/s; green/active travel; landscape-scale environmental initiatives; environmental land management schemes.
National statutory agencies (including Environment Agency, Forestry Commission England, Historic England, Highways England, Natural England)	Historic environment; landscape and nature conservation; rivers and water quality; tranquillity; ecosystem goods and services.	Reporting on efforts to conserve and enhance the North Wessex Downs under s.85 Duty of Regard (CRoW Act 2000); land use planning; green infrastructure; environmental land management schemes; land management advice; natural capital assessments; partnership conservation projects (e.g. Farmer-led groups; woodland management advice, support and marketing; River Basin Management Plans; Conservation Area Appraisals; Catchment Partnerships and Catchment Management Plans; Route Management Strategies; Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site Management Plan.
Non-governmental organisations (including Action for the River Kennet, Canal and Rivers Trust, CPRE, Earth Trust, Friends of the Ridgeway, Kennet and Avon Canal Trust, National Trust, RSPB, Trust for Sustainable Living, Wildlife Trusts.	Landscape, heritage and nature conservation and restoration; North Wessex Downs profile; settlement character; water abstraction; diffuse pollution; tranquillity; dark skies; affordable housing; responsible access; tourism; farm diversification; ecosystem goods and services.	Member/supporter communications; public information and interpretation; estate management; collaborative projects; planning and design; recreation marketing and management; green/active travel; North Wessex Downs tourism promotion; Great West Way tourism initiative.

Continued over page...

Figure X continued: Stakeholders and Opportunities to Contribute

Partners	Principal Opportunities	Delivery (examples)
North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust	North Wessex Downs profile and marketing; public awareness, understanding, pride in and care for the landscape; community engagement; education; health and well being; tourism promotion; landscape, heritage and nature conservation; decluttering; tranquillity; dark skies.	Public communications, presentations and events; fundraising; neighbourhood planning; community projects; 'green prescribing'; educational talks/visits/projects; publications (e.g. walks leaflets);
Parish and town councils	North Wessex Downs profile and marketing; community identity and pride; community engagement; tourism; landscape and nature conservation; decluttering; historic environment; settlement character; tranquillity; dark skies.	Public communications and events; parish / town / neighbourhood planning; community projects; Village Design Statements; property and grounds management; publications (e.g. walks leaflets); control of external lighting; community transport; local sourcing.
Rights of way and countryside access forums and groups	Access to the North Wessex Downs; raising the profile and marketing; tourism; links to landscape and nature conservation.	Improving responsible access; contributing to collaborative marketing and tourism initiatives; recognition of the North Wessex Downs in Countryside Access Improvement Plans.
Tourism marketing bodies	North Wessex Downs profile / marketing; green/active travel; tourism; local products.	Destination marketing strategies; collaborative projects (e.g. Great West Way); North Wessex Downs tourism promotion; local supplier networks; National Trail partnerships; visitor payback.
Transport operators	Green travel; access; North Wessex Downs profile/marketing; sustainable tourism; tranquillity.	Business and marketing strategies; collaborative initiatives with local businesses and communities; AONB signage; National Trail partnerships.
Water companies	Water abstraction and consumption; water quality; diffuse water pollution; catchment sensitive farming; habitat conservation and enhancement.	Reporting on efforts to conserve and enhance the North Wessex Downs under s.85 Duty of Regard (CRoW Act 2000); public information and advice; Water Resources Management Plans; Five-Year Plans; collaborative projects with local partners; demand management measures; use of abstraction licences; estate management; control of external lighting.

1-2 summary pages of achievements from last plan -
photographic form?

Glossary

References?

List of figures?

Back page: contact details, quote, price/barcode?

Wraparound image from front? (depends on binding), or seaprte image and colour

Chichester Harbour **Management Plan** 2019 - 2024 Third Review

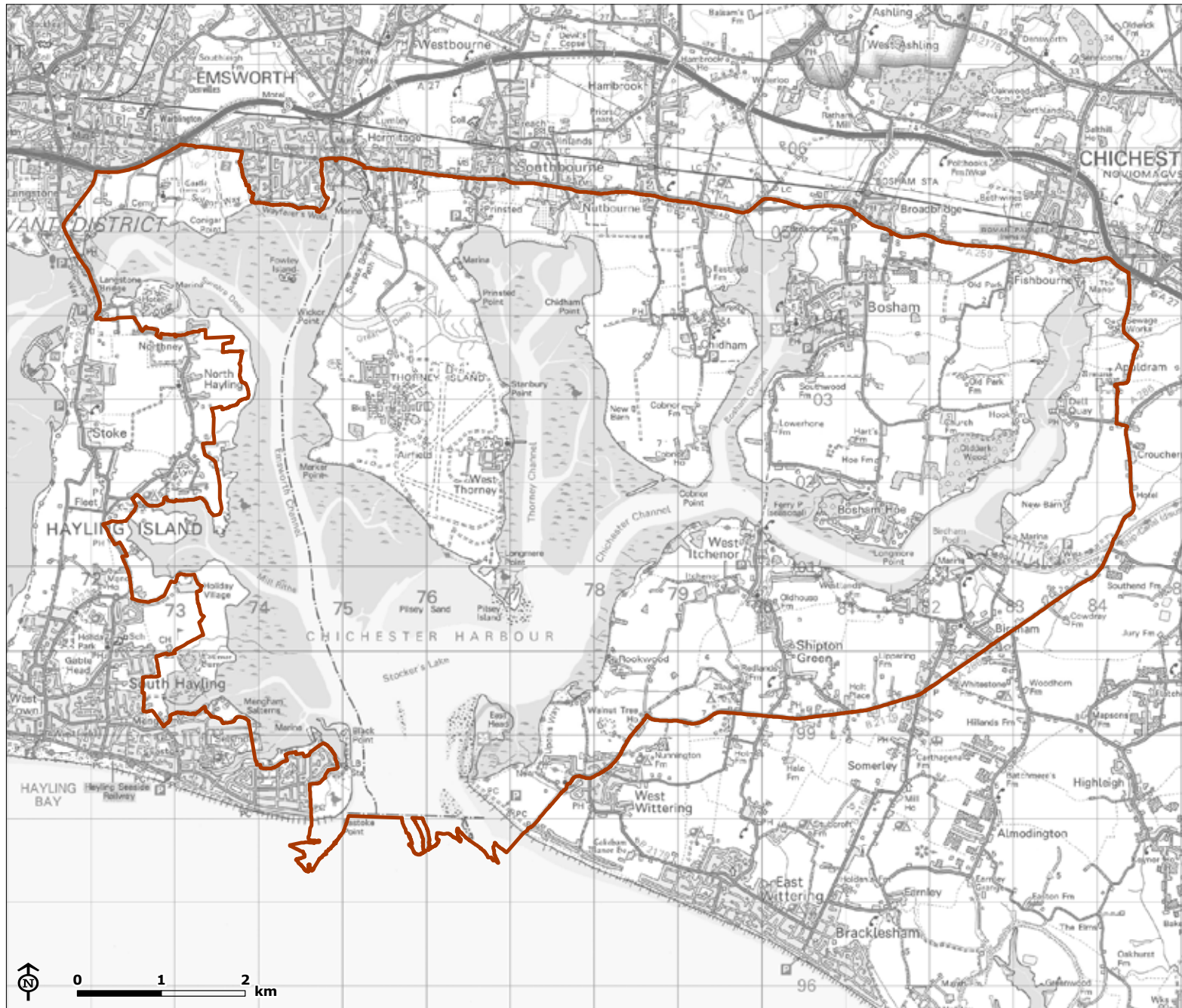
An Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for the Trust Port and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Page 393




Enjoying, Protecting, Enhancing

**Chichester
Harbour
Conservancy**



Chichester Harbour

 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000



Foreword



I am fortunate that England's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are part of my Ministerial responsibilities. Whether it be rolling hills, sweeping coastline or a tranquil village, spending time in an AONB can stir the heart and lift the spirit.

This is a pivotal moment for all AONBs. The Government has set its ambition in the 25 Year Environment Plan which states clearly the importance of natural beauty as part of our green future, while AONBs retain the highest status of protection for landscape through national planning policy. The Review of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty led by Julian Glover - the first of its kind for generations - will make recommendations to make sure our designated landscapes can flourish in the years ahead.

In my visits to AONBs around the country, I have been struck by the passion of many people - farmers, volunteers, and hard-working staff - for the beautiful places they live and work. In this spirit I am delighted to welcome publication of this Statutory Management Plan for Chichester Harbour. It is significant that this plan will be delivered in partnership by those who value the Trust Port and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. I would like to thank all those involved in preparation of this document, and wish you the best of success in bringing it to fruition.

Lord Gardiner
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity

Welcome from the Chairman



It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Third Review of the Chichester Harbour Management Plan. Our Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy brings together the work of the Conservancy and its partners in managing a Trust Port and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Although produced by the Conservancy, this document has been prepared with everyone who lives, works, or visits Chichester Harbour in-mind.

The Conservancy engaged with many local people during the preparation of this Management Plan. For example, it was subject to a public consultation over a period of two months. Copies of the Plan were made available at all the local libraries and at the four Local Authorities. We contacted over 150 stakeholder groups and it featured in our monthly email newsletters, which are circulated to over 3,200 people. Four open meetings took place around the Harbour, when members of the public could engage directly with Conservancy staff about the emerging Management Plan.

Meanwhile an independent consultant reviewed the Management Plan, undertaking an Equalities Impact Assessment, a bespoke Sustainability Appraisal, and an outline Habitat Regulations Assessment (all available to download from the Conservancy's website). The overall conclusion was that the implementation of the Management Plan would be highly beneficial to Chichester Harbour.

With those words of encouragement, and with the support of the Conservancy staff, I am very confident that this new Management Plan will guide us through to 2024 and help us underwrite the long-term future of Chichester Harbour. This will not only benefit local people and visitors alike but, more importantly, it will also help to protect and enhance the fantastic flora and fauna that is critical to this area.

Before I finish, I would just like to refer to the forward by Lord Gardiner, where he talks about the Government Review of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, being led by Julian Glover. Hopefully, the final report will make recommendations to ensure that our designated landscapes can flourish in the years ahead. It is therefore vital to the future of Chichester Harbour that the current unique control the Conservancy has over both Chichester Harbour – established by an Act of Parliament – and the AONB, is in no way diminished. In fact, we are looking to have greater influence in some areas, such as planning. Lord Gardiner finished his forward by 'wishing us the best of success in bringing this Management Plan to fruition'. The outcome of the Glover Review could well influence the development of future Management Plans.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support.

Jeremy Hunt
Chairman
Chichester Harbour Conservancy

Executive Summary

Section 1 details background information to the management of Chichester Harbour. In 1964, Chichester Harbour was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), with the primary purpose to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of this nationally important protected landscape. In 1971, Chichester Harbour Conservancy was established with the function to protect the interests of navigation and the conservation of nature. The Conservancy practices Integrated Coastal Zone Management, which has successfully brought the objectives of the AONB and the Conservancy together for many years.

Since 2000, relevant local authorities have been required to publish a Statutory Management Plan every 5-years for each AONB that is within their geographical jurisdiction. Chichester Harbour Conservancy, on behalf of Hampshire County Council, West Sussex County Council, Chichester District Council and Havant Borough Council, has led with the publication of each Chichester Harbour Management Plan, with every iteration providing a framework for action to help look after and manage this protected landscape. The Third Review of the Chichester Harbour Management Plan establishes a new long-term Vision to 2050 and reaffirms the special qualities of the AONB. Chichester Harbour Conservancy is committed to working in partnership to oversee the management of the Harbour, which encompasses both water and the surrounding land.

Section 2 considers 15 policies to continue safeguarding the environment, whilst remaining relevant to local people, and supporting local businesses. The policies

are not in any order of importance and great weight should be collectively attached to all of them. The policies explain the importance of conserving and enhancing the landscape, the protection of habitats, safety on the water, the maintenance of navigation aids, water quality, catchment sensitive farming and looking after the wildlife species that use the Harbour. The importance of health and wellbeing, sailing and boating, education, connecting people to nature, economic development, marine litter pollution, and the historic environment and heritage assets, are also considered. Of course, in practice there is a significant degree of overlap between the policies, therefore they should be read as an integrated set.

Section 3 explains the importance of planning in this nationally important protected landscape. Since 2014, the Conservancy has developed 18 Planning Principles to help guide development in and directly around the AONB. The Planning Principles, which should be considered in conjunction with the 15 policies, have been prepared to assist individuals, agents, businesses and developers to better understand the criteria that Chichester Harbour Conservancy will use to appraise planning applications when responding to the relevant Local Planning Authority. Although the Planning Principles are not development management policies, they complement the respective Local Plans providing a greater level of detail as to what is, and what is not, likely to be considered as acceptable development in and around Chichester Harbour.

Section 4 is the Appendix, which includes facts and figures about Chichester Harbour and a list of locally designated sites. Spatial data is presented on a suite of maps.



Contents

Section 1

Background Information

Our Vision and Values	8
The Special Qualities of Chichester Harbour	10
Protecting the Special Qualities	11
Chichester Harbour in Legislation	15
Chichester Harbour Conservancy	15
The Role of the Harbour Authority	17
Countryside and Rights of Way Act of 2000	18
Local, National and International Designations	19
Integrated Coastal Zone Management	20
Local Supporting Organisations	21
Partnership Plans and Strategies	22

Section 2

Chichester Harbour Policies

Policy 1	Conserving and Enhancing the Landscape	24
Policy 2	Development Management	26
Policy 3	Diversity of Habitats	28
Policy 4	Safety on the Water	31
Policy 5	Facilitating Navigation	33
Policy 6	Water Quality	35
Policy 7	Catchment Sensitive Farming	38
Policy 8	Thriving Wildlife	40
Policy 9	Health and Wellbeing	43
Policy 10	Enjoying Sailing and Boating	45
Policy 11	Excellence in Education	47
Policy 12	Connecting People with Nature	49
Policy 13	Prosperous Economy	51
Policy 14	Marine Litter Pollution	53
Policy 15	Historic Environment and Heritage Assets	55

Section 3

Chichester Harbour Planning Principles

Planning Considerations	59
PP01 Chichester Harbour as a Protected Area	61
PP02 Safeguarding Marine Enterprise	63
PP03 Replacement Dwellings and Domestic Householder Extensions	66
PP04 Creation of New Dwellings and Residential Institutions	67
PP05 Package Treatment Plants, Cesspits and Septic Tanks	68
PP06 Conversion of Buildings Inside and Outside of Defined Settlements	69
PP07 New/Extended Farm and Woodland Buildings	70
PP08 New Tourist Accommodation	71
PP09 Dark Skies	72
PP10 Shoreline Defences	74
PP11 Intertidal Structures	75
PP12 Limits on Marinas and Moorings	76
PP13 Public Access to the Water and New Launch-on-Demand Facilities	78
PP14 Horse/Pony Grazing and Related Structures	79
PP15 Signage Requiring Express Advertisement Consent	80
PP16 Renewable Energy	81
PP17 Telecommunication Development	82
PP18 Access Infrastructure	83

Section 4

Appendix

Chichester Harbour in Facts and Figures	85
Locally Designated Sites	87
Conservation Areas, Dark Sky Discovery Sites and Nature Reserves	87
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Local Wildlife Sites	88
Map A Amenity Area	89
Map B Worldwide and European Designations	90
Map C Site of Special Scientific Interest	91
Map D SPA Buffer Zone	92
Map E Agricultural Land Classification	93
Map F Nitrate Vulnerable Zones	94
Map G Solent Waders and Brent Goose Network	95
Map H Nature Sites	96
Map I Bass Nursery Area	97
Map J Footpaths, Salterns Way and Bridleway	98
Map K Population Density	99
Map L Light Pollution	100
Map M Tranquillity	101
Map N Historic Environment Record	102
Map O Heritage Assets	103
Map P Satellite Image of AONB	104
Map Q Satellite Image of Setting of AONB	105

Section 1

Background Information

Our Vision and Values

Our Vision to 2050

The Vision to 2050 has been developed from an understanding of the special qualities, ensuring that what is unique, valuable and outstanding about Chichester Harbour is conserved and enhanced for the future.

In 2050, the nationally and internationally important landscape and setting of Chichester Harbour is conserved and enhanced.

- The special qualities of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are appreciated and enjoyed by local people and visitors who care for the Harbour now and in the future.
- Management is balanced by ongoing mutual respect shown by different user groups and all within the natural limits of the Harbour.
- The diverse habitats and excellent water quality benefit the rich array of wildlife, which use the Harbour in harmony with the recreational activities of sailing, walking, cycling and relaxing.
- People understand and value their surroundings with many opportunities for outdoor education.
- Businesses thrive with marine enterprises, farmers and tourism providers positively contributing towards a prosperous local economy whilst safeguarding the natural and historic environment.

Chichester Harbour will be a resilient landscape, where local communities and businesses are prepared and able to adapt to future challenges.

Our Continuing Values

Chichester Harbour Conservancy and its partners have evolved a series of values to guide the management of Chichester Harbour. These values provide a framework to underpin the landscape-scale approach to help deliver the Management Plan.

1. Conserving and Enhancing the Special Qualities of the AONB

- Protect the natural beauty of the landscape of Chichester Harbour.
- Enhance the diverse range of habitats for the benefit of wildlife.
- Continue to value Chichester Harbour for sailing, boating and other recreational activities.
- Safeguard the quiet and undeveloped nature of Chichester Harbour.
- Increase access to, understanding and appreciation of, the historic environment and heritage assets of Chichester Harbour.

2. Sustainability and Wise Use

- Maintain and improve the facilities and marine industries in Chichester Harbour for safe recreation where they are consistent with its landscape and nature conservation designations.
- Ensure the wise use and sustainable management of Chichester Harbour for the benefit of present and future generations.
- Maintain a balance between the various interests and user groups.

3. Increasing Knowledge and Understanding

- Increase public awareness, particularly among young people, of the value of Chichester Harbour and the threats to its well-being.
- Increase community involvement, public participation and social inclusion in the management of Chichester Harbour.
- Undertake or commission scientific research as the basis for sound environmental management of Chichester Harbour.

4. Helping People to Enjoy Chichester Harbour

- Manage the Harbour to promote and aid the enjoyment of users of all ages, abilities and interests.
- Seek to restrict some activities if they hinder the widespread enjoyment of others.

5. Supporting Sustainable Development

- Support sustainable forms of rural and marine industry and agricultural practices where they are consistent with Chichester Harbour's landscape and nature conservation designations.
- Support the economic and social needs of the local communities where they are consistent with Chichester Harbour's landscape and nature conservation designations.

6. Working in Partnership

- Engage and deploy volunteers to help with the delivery of the Chichester Harbour Management Plan.
- Encourage partner organisations to help deliver the Chichester Harbour Management Plan.
- Develop a close working relationship between all involved in Chichester Harbour and co-ordinate policy with the other agencies involved in integrated coastal zone management.
- Raise the profile of Chichester Harbour across South East England and at national level.

The Special Qualities of Chichester Harbour

Chichester Harbour was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1964. The reason it meets the criteria for the designation is because the landscape has a number of exceptional features, called special qualities. When these are considered in combination, they collectively define what is distinctive and significant about Chichester Harbour compared with other parts of the countryside. The Landscape Character Assessment, refreshed in 2019 and available to download from the Conservancy's website, describes in detail the landscape of Chichester Harbour.

The 10 special qualities are in no particular order and they should be read as an integrated set.

- The unique blend of land and sea – especially the combination of expanses of open waters, narrow inlets and intimate creeks.
- The frequently wooded shoreline.
- The flatness of the landform, unusual among AONBs, accentuates the significance of sea and tide and of distant landmarks across land and water.
- The open water of the central area of the Harbour.
- The overall sense of wilderness within the seascape.
- The particularly strong historic environment and heritage assets.
- The picturesque harbourside settlements.
- The wealth of flora and fauna, and notably the vast flocks of wading birds add to the richness and diversity of the landscape.
- The unspoilt character and unobtrusive beauty.
- The very special sense of peace and tranquillity, largely engendered by the gentle way the AONB is used and closeness to nature that is experienced.

Protecting the Special Qualities

For many years, Chichester Harbour Conservancy and its partners have looked after these special qualities so they can safely pass from one generation to the next while being conserved and enhanced in-keeping with the range of environmental designations.

The combination of pressures outlined in the following tables demonstrates that Chichester Harbour needs to be actively managed. The management measures being taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy and its partners are crucial for the long-term protection of the AONB.

Page 403



Sea Level Rise and Climate Change

Potentially affects all the special qualities.

THREATS

- In 2013, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projected that global sea levels would rise between 0.53 metres and 0.98 metres by 2100.
- If this is correct it would have a dramatic impact on Chichester Harbour, most likely affecting the sailing clubs, coastal footpaths, harbourside buildings and dwellings, lowland farming and network infrastructure (e.g. roads, power supplies, telephone lines, etc.).
- The length of natural coastline in the Harbour is decreasing as a greater number of hard shoreline defences are installed. This causes coastal squeeze - the loss of saltmarsh habitat - and affects the natural setting of the AONB.
- Coastal footpath erosion in particular may result in the permanent loss of access routes around the Harbour.
- Habitats and wildlife will also be affected by climate change. Species will change and the advent of new diseases may impact on populations.
- Hotter, drier summers may result in increased levels of tourism, which will need to be managed.
- Warmer, wetter winters may result in increased instances of flash flooding and storm events.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Working closely with Local Planning Authorities to protect the AONB, using the National Planning Policy Framework, Local Plans, the Chichester Harbour Management Plan, Neighbourhood Plans, Village Design Statements, and Supplementary Planning Documents.
- Working with universities and the Environment Agency to understand better the impacts of climate change.
- Encouraging measures to mitigate the rate at which climate change will take place, such as small-scale renewable energy and the use of electric vehicles.
- Working closely with the Highways Authorities and Natural England to protect the footpath network, including the England Coast Path.
- Planning ahead to rollback footpaths where they may be entirely lost to coastal erosion.
- Deploying Volunteer Rangers (Harbour Watch) to regularly assess the condition of footpaths and shoreline defences.
- Advising anyone considering installing or replacing shoreline defences to take account of the Chichester Harbour 'Sustainable Shorelines: General Guidance' document.
- Ongoing species research to monitor change of habitats and wildlife.
- Working with tourism providers to manage increases in the number of visitors.
- Adapting and/or improving existing buildings and other infrastructure to prepare for the flash flooding and storm events.

Pressures from Development

Potentially affects all the special qualities.

THREATS



- Over 300 planning applications are submitted every year in and directly around the AONB.
- New major developments in and directly around the AONB, such as extensive housing sites, industrial parks, and large-scale renewable energy infrastructure, are likely to have an overall detrimental impact on the protected landscape.
- Growing trend towards larger and more prominent harbourside detached houses, detracting from the natural beauty.
- Over-time, the impact of incremental developments is resulting in the gradual urbanisation of the countryside.
- Chichester Harbour is sensitive to recreational disturbance, particularly to overwintering birds but also to other species such as harbour (common) seals, grey seals and water voles. Increased disturbance can reduce time wildlife spend feeding and resting. Walking, dog walking, personal water craft, shooting, bait-digging and one-off aggravating behaviour on the harbourside, such as building works and occasional parties with loud music, can have a detrimental impact on wildlife.
- High levels of light pollution have a detrimental impact on humans and wildlife.
- Marine businesses are part of the historic environment of the Harbour. They need to be financially sustainable and are subject to wider economic uncertainties.
- Once a marine business ceases to operate, it may never return, especially if the site changes to dwellings.
- Neglected, derelict or ill-managed sites detract from the natural beauty.
- Unauthorised developments require swift and effective enforcement action due to the environmental sensitivities of this nationally and internationally important landscape.
- The roads around the Harbour often get heavily congested during peak times, resulting in air and noise pollution and a sense of dissatisfaction for locals and visitors.

OPPORTUNITIES



- Working closely with Local Planning Authorities to protect the AONB, using the National Planning Policy Framework, Local Plans, the Chichester Harbour Management Plan, Neighbourhood Plans, Village Design Statements, and Supplementary Planning Documents.
- Investing developer contributions through Bird Aware Solent to help educate people about recreational disturbance affecting the Special Protection Area.
- Seeking a long-term solution to the A27 Chichester Bypass that does not detrimentally affect Chichester Harbour.
- Working together to better manage seasonal traffic congestion.
- During seasonal peak traffic times towards West Wittering, dispersing tourists to other destinations on the Manhood Peninsula.
- Investigating the potential for new cycle routes around the Harbour.
- Encouraging use of public transport, the Salterns Way, and the uptake of electric vehicles with local authorities.

Water Quality and Marine Pollution

Potentially affects all the special qualities.

THREATS



- New housing developments add pressure on the Waste Water Treatment Works.
- Instances of heavy rainfall puts pressure on Waste Water Treatment Works leading to storm discharges into Chichester Harbour. This affects water quality, which results in excessive nitrates and the growth of macroalgal weed. This is a problem for habitats, wildlife, water users and local people.
- Impacts of bacteria from storm discharges and other inputs causing failures of the classification of shellfish and bathing waters.
- Agricultural run-off from farms within the catchment also has a large detrimental impact on water quality.
- Pollution washes into the Harbour from the Solent and further afield, which is difficult to have any direct control over.
- Chichester Harbour is affected by marine pollution, and in particular from plastics. Other forms of litter also frequently wash-up on the strandline along with occasional instances of land-based fly-tipping.

OPPORTUNITIES



- Working closely with Local Planning Authorities to protect the AONB, using the National Planning Policy Framework, Local Plans, the Chichester Harbour Management Plan, Neighbourhood Plans, Village Design Statements, and Supplementary Planning Documents.
- Working with Chichester Water Quality Group, which includes Southern Water, to influence the Chichester Local Plan and use it to manage small developments in the catchments of the Harbour so as not to compromise water quality ensuring that Chichester Harbour is protected and enhanced.
- Working with the Arun & Western Streams Catchment Partnership towards a healthy groundwater, river and marine system where all interested sectors, groups or individuals may contribute towards protecting and restoring the natural environment to benefit people and wildlife now and in the future.
- Working with the Arun & Rother Rivers Trust to protect, conserve, and enhance the rivers, streams, watercourses and water impoundments. Conserve and improve biodiversity and increase awareness of the need and importance of a healthy river environment.
- Working with universities, Solent Forum, and the Sussex Marine & Coastal Forum, to better understand the issues of plastic pollution, and with communities and partners (e.g. the Clean Solent Seas and Shores project) to reduce litter pollution and improve water quality.
- Deploying Volunteer Rangers (Harbour Watch / Conservation) to collect rubbish washed-up in Chichester Harbour so it can be properly disposed of.
- Working with local authorities to swiftly address instances of fly-tipping, and where there is evidence of the culprit, to seek prosecution.

Noise Pollution

Potentially affects the special sense of peace and tranquillity.

THREATS

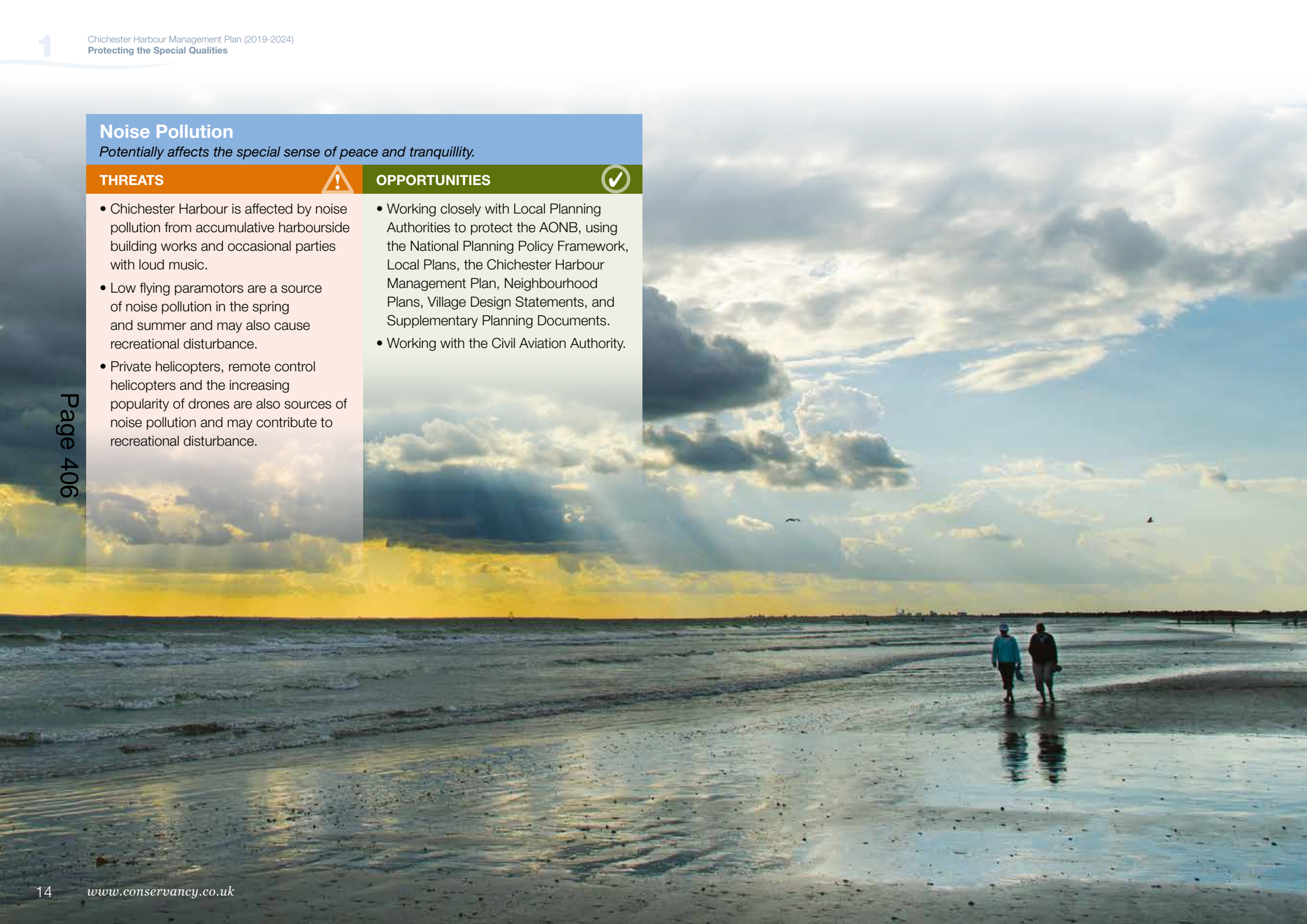


- Chichester Harbour is affected by noise pollution from accumulative harbourside building works and occasional parties with loud music.
- Low flying paramotors are a source of noise pollution in the spring and summer and may also cause recreational disturbance.
- Private helicopters, remote control helicopters and the increasing popularity of drones are also sources of noise pollution and may contribute to recreational disturbance.

OPPORTUNITIES



- Working closely with Local Planning Authorities to protect the AONB, using the National Planning Policy Framework, Local Plans, the Chichester Harbour Management Plan, Neighbourhood Plans, Village Design Statements, and Supplementary Planning Documents.
- Working with the Civil Aviation Authority.



Chichester Harbour in Legislation

On 4th February 1964, Chichester Harbour was designated an AONB, with the Government issuing a press notice the following day, titled “Beauty of Chichester Harbour to be Protected.”

The primary purpose of the AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty. In pursuing the primary purpose, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment. Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met insofar as it is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy

On 5th August 1971, Chichester Harbour Conservancy was established by the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act. The Act recognised the Harbour as a single estuary and brought together its management through a Statutory Advisory Committee, comprising local stakeholders, and a Statutory Board, constituting local councillors and representatives of the Statutory Advisory Committee.

The duties and powers of Chichester Harbour Conservancy are set out and explained in the Act, as spelt out in part IV, section 21:

21.– (1) It shall be the function of the Conservancy, subject to the provisions of this Act, to take such steps from time to time as to them seem meet for the conservancy, maintenance and improvement of–

a) The harbour, for the use of pleasure craft and such other vessels as may seek to use the same;

b) The amenity area, for the occupation of leisure and recreation and the conservation of nature:

and the facilities (including, in relation to the harbour, navigational facilities) afforded respectively therein or in connection therewith.

(2) In the fulfilment of the function with which they are charged by subsection (1) of this section, the Conservancy shall have regard to the desirability of conserving the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside and of avoiding interference with fisheries.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy is a unique organisation. It is the only Statutory Harbour Authority with responsibility for an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Its purposes extend beyond that of other AONBs, to include leisure, recreation and the conservation of nature.

The Act gave jurisdiction to the Conservancy for the land and water within the Amenity Area.

Statutory Advisory Committee

The Statutory Advisory Committee provides expert guidance to the Statutory Board and was established by the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act of 1971. The aims of the Statutory Advisory Committee are:

- to ensure that Chichester Harbour is managed effectively; and
- to provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas; and
- to consider issues likely to affect the area adversely and recommend action; and
- to make recommendations for new initiatives.

The Statutory Advisory Committee is made up of **17 members** from a variety of special interest groups.

	Members
Chichester District Association of Local Councils	1
• Representing Parish Councils	
Chichester Harbour Federation	4
• Representing Harbour users	
Commercial Interests	1
Defra Interests	2
Naturalists:	1
• Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	
• Hampshire Ornithological Society	
• RSPB	
• Sussex Wildlife Trust	
• Sussex Ornithological Society	
Professional Boatman's Association	1
Recreational and Sports Anglers	1
Residents of the Borough of Havant	1
• Representing Residents Associations	
Royal Yachting Association	1
Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	1
Wildfowlers	1
Other Interests in Chichester Harbour:	2
• Friends of Chichester Harbour	
• Farming and Landowning Interests	

Whilst the Statutory Advisory Committee does not have any responsibilities or duties, it must be consulted with on all strategic matters by the Statutory Board as an active Harbour partnership.

Statutory Board

The Statutory Board is the decision-making body and was also established by the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act of 1971. The Statutory Board is made up of **15 members**.

	Members
Hampshire County Council	4
West Sussex County Council	4
Chichester District Council	2
Havant Borough Council	2
Statutory Advisory Committee	3

Members are either appointed to the Statutory Board by the local authority or by the Statutory Advisory Committee. Members must collectively act in the best interests of the Conservancy, Chichester Harbour and the Amenity Area. If any given matter arises that may not be in the best interests of their appointing body, in accordance with the 1971 Act, the best interests of the Conservancy, Chichester Harbour and the Amenity Area must take priority.

Conservancy Team

As of 2019, Chichester Harbour Conservancy employs around **50 people** to help manage the Trust Port and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

	Employees
Permanent (full-time)	19
Permanent (part-time)	9
Seasonal Patrol Assistants	8-10
Education Centre Team Teachers (casual)	7
Solar Heritage Skippers and Crew (casual)	6

The Role of the Harbour Authority

Chichester Harbour Conservancy is the Statutory Harbour Authority. It is one of the largest recreational sailing harbours in the country, comprising 30 square kilometres of water at high-tide, with a resident fleet of 10,500 boats. The Harbour sustains 5,200 moorings and marina berths, and 14 sailing clubs. It is estimated that each year 25,000 people enjoy the Harbour's waters for racing, cruising and fishing.

The management of Chichester Harbour is guided by the duties and powers as described in the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act of 1971 and by a range of harbour and merchant shipping legislation, detailed in the Conservancy's Safety Plan & Marine Safety Management System.

Complementing these duties and powers and providing a national standard for marine safety in ports and harbours is the Port Marine Safety Code (the 'Code'). The Code was developed to improve safety in the port marine environment and to enable organisations to manage their marine operations to nationally agreed standards. It provides a measure by which organisations can be accountable for discharging their statutory powers and duties to run harbours or facilities safely and effectively. It also provides a standard against which the policies, procedures and performance of organisations can be measured. The Code is designed to reduce the risk of incidents occurring within the port marine environment and to clarify the responsibilities of organisations within its scope.

The Code is primarily intended for the 'duty holder' which will, for most organisations, mean those members of the organisation, both individually and collectively, who are ultimately accountable for marine safety. At Chichester Harbour, the Statutory Board Members are the duty holder.

The Code refers to some of the existing legal duties and powers that affect organisations in relation to marine safety but it does not in itself create any new legal duties. However, although they are not mandatory, there are nevertheless several measures which are key to the successful implementation of the Code.

In order to comply with the Code, Statutory Harbour Authorities must consider the following 10 measures:

- I. **Duty Holder.** Formally identify and designate the duty holder, whose members are individually and collectively accountable for compliance with the Code, and their performance in ensuring safe marine operations in the Harbour and its approaches.
- II. **Designated Person.** An independent 'designated person' is appointed to provide assurance about the operation of the Marine Safety Management System. The designated person must have direct access to the duty holder.
- III. **Legislation.** The duty holder must review and be aware of their existing powers based on local and national legislation, seeking additional powers if required in order to promote safe navigation.
- IV. **Duties and Powers.** Comply with the duties and powers under existing legislation, as appropriate.
- V. **Risk Assessment.** Ensure that marine risks are formally assessed and are eliminated or reduced to the lowest possible level, so far as is reasonably practicable, in accordance with good practice.
- VI. **Marine Safety Management System.** Operate an effective Marine Safety Management System which has been developed after consultation, is based on formal risk assessment and refers to an appropriate approach to incident investigation.
- VII. **Review and Audit.** Monitor, review and audit the risk assessment and Marine Safety Management Plan on a regular basis – the independent designated person has a key role in providing assurance for the duty holder.
- VIII. **Competence.** Use competent people (who are trained, qualified and experienced) in positions of responsibility for managing marine and navigation safety.
- IX. **Plan.** Publish a Safety Plan showing how the standards in the Code will be met and produce a report assessing performance against that Plan at least every three years.
- X. **Aids to Navigation.** Comply with directions from the General Lighthouse Authorities and supply information and returns as required.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/port-marine-safety-code

Countryside and Rights of Way Act of 2000

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act of 2000 required local authorities to publish Statutory Management Plans for all AONBs. Since then, the Conservancy has published a Management Plan on behalf of Hampshire County Council, West Sussex County Council, Chichester District Council and Havant Borough Council every five years. Each Plan fulfils the duty placed upon these local authorities under Part IV of the CRoW Act and provides a framework for the Conservancy and its partners to drive forward integrated and co-ordinated action for the management of this nationally important protected landscape.

As a result of the CRoW Act, the Statutory Advisory Committee and the Statutory Board formally established the Statutory Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) for the AONB. This included taking on responsibility for land outside the Amenity Area, but within the AONB, creating a single coherent Management Plan for the whole landscape.

Every year, Chichester Harbour Conservancy publishes an Annual Review of the delivery of the Management Plan. These reports summarise the activities of the Conservancy and its partners throughout the preceding year. The Annual Reviews help to raise awareness of the value of Chichester Harbour and the work collectively being undertaken.

The CRoW Act also placed a new duty on local authorities and other relevant authorities (for example, Southern Water, Highways England, etc.). The duty is that 'when exercising or performing any function in relation to, or so as to affect, land in the AONB, to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB'. This means that the Conservancy will always look to the local authority or relevant authority to consult with the JAC on any proposal that affects the AONB.



Local, National and International Designations

A distinctive feature of Chichester Harbour is the range and spatial coverage of local, national and international designations, which is uncommon amongst Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks. These designations collectively demonstrate that Chichester Harbour is very sensitive to changes in landscape and land use, particularly affecting natural resources, habitats and biodiversity. Please also refer to the suite of maps in Section 4.

Worldwide Designation	Ramsar Site	Wetlands are among the most diverse and productive ecosystems. Chichester and Langstone Harbours were recognised as a wetland of international importance when they were designated as a Ramsar Site in 1987, under the Ramsar Convention.
European Designations	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	A Special Area of Conservation is a site designated under the Habitats Directive. These sites, together with Special Protection Areas, are called Natura sites and they are internationally important for threatened habitats and species. Solent Maritime SAC was designated in 1994.
	Special Protection Area (SPA)	A Special Protection Area is a site designated under the Birds Directive. Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA was designated in 1979.
	Water Framework Directive	This aims for good water quality and covers groundwater, surface water (rivers, canals, lakes, reservoirs, estuaries, other brackish waters, and coastal waters) out to one nautical mile from shore as well as wetlands. The Directive, which came into effect in 2000, gives shellfish harvesting waters and bathing waters special protection.
Nationally Important Designations	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a landscape which is considered so precious that it is protected for the nation. The criteria for designating an AONB include valuable wildlife, habitats, geology and heritage, as well as scenic views. Chichester Harbour was designated as an AONB in 1964.
	Bass Nursery Area	A Bass Nursery Area is a place that is recognised as a haven for small school bass. Fishing for bass, or fishing for any fish using sand-eels as bait, by any fishing boat within any part of the Harbour as defined, is prohibited between 30th April and 1st November each year. Chichester Harbour was designated a Bass Nursery Area in 1990.
	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Chichester Harbour was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1970 because it was considered to be of special interest by virtue of its fauna, flora, geological or physiographical / geomorphological features.
Locally Important Designations	Conservation Area	Conservation Areas protect special architectural and historical places of interest. There are ten Conservation Areas in and around Chichester Harbour.
	Dark Sky Discovery Site	Three Dark Sky Discovery Sites were defined in Chichester Harbour in 2017. They are particularly good sites for stargazing.
	Local Nature Reserve	Local Nature Reserves are particularly appropriate for educational, research or public information purposes. There are five Local Nature Reserves in Chichester Harbour.
	Local Wildlife Site	Local Wildlife Sites in West Sussex feature important habitats that complement Local Nature Reserves and the Site of Special Scientific Interest. They are the equivalent of a Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Hampshire. There are 16 Local Wildlife Sites in Chichester Harbour.
	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Hampshire feature important habitats that complement Local Nature Reserves and the Site of Special Scientific Interest. They are the equivalent of Local Wildlife Sites in West Sussex. There are 25 SINCS in Chichester Harbour.

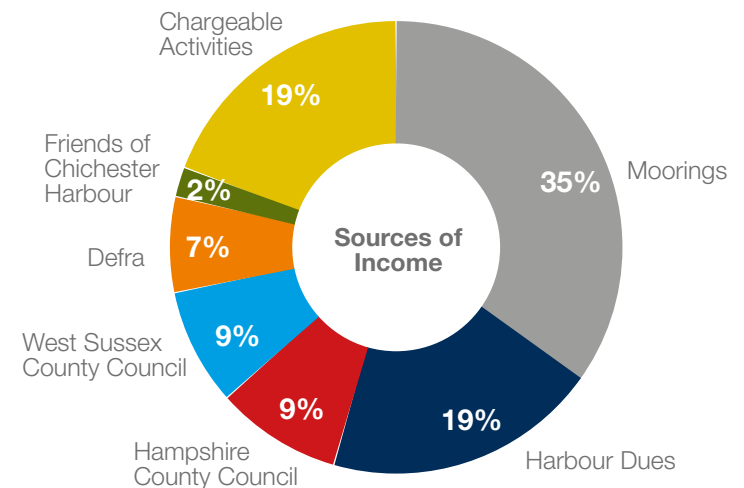
Integrated Coastal Zone Management

There is a recognised need to work in partnership at Chichester Harbour because there are many different stakeholders with land and water interests and they are all concentrated in and around the estuary landscape.

The complexity of Chichester Harbour, in terms of both its high conservation value and its importance and use as a major recreational boating Harbour led, in the late 1960s, to concerns that there was not an adequate system of management to deal with the potential conflicts. This was recognised by both Harbour users and the local authorities, and following a detailed study of the needs of Chichester Harbour in 1968 (the Chichester Harbour Study), an Act of Parliament was firstly promoted by West Sussex County Council, and soon after supported by Hampshire County Council as well. The Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act of 1971 is available to download from the Conservancy's website.

The Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act of 1971 encouraged a spirit of co-operation amongst its differing stakeholders. Managing the Harbour and the land around it (the Amenity Area) was a key component of the Act. Today, this holistic approach is called **integrated coastal zone management**. Whilst this term was only established in 1992, in the same year a Parliamentary Select Committee cited Chichester Harbour as an exemplar for integrated coastal zone management. This was because the Conservancy had been practising it in all but name since the 1971 Act, and from 1992 onwards other organisations were encouraged to follow suit.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy is principally funded by income from: moorings and Harbour Dues; a precept from Hampshire County Council; a precept from West Sussex County Council; an AONB Grant from Defra; project funding from the Friends of Chichester Harbour and income derived from chargeable activities. (e.g. harbour charges, boat park income, harbour rents, works licences, legal charges, rural payments, car park income, and investment income). **A chart showing the proportion of income sources that collectively fund the ongoing management of Chichester Harbour is shown on the right (correct as of 2019).** The income is used to deliver the policies and actions in the Management Plan.



Local Supporting Organisations

A distinctive characteristic of Chichester Harbour is the combination of the Conservancy, the Federation, the Friends, and the Trust. Each organisation has its own specific role and remit.

Chichester Harbour Federation

Originating with four sailing clubs in 1924, the Chichester Harbour Federation aims to promote sailing and boating in the Harbour, co-ordinate race activities, and to act as a collective voice and forum for the marine community. Around 40 organisations are members of the Federation, representing all the major Harbour users and marine industries. The Federation runs Chichester Harbour Race Week, one of the most popular dinghy regatta weeks, regularly attracting in excess of 300 entries each year. The Federation supported the AONB designation in 1964, and since then, has helped with governance of Chichester Harbour Conservancy. The Federation is a Principal Partner for the delivery of the Management Plan, performing a vital role that connects the sailing and boating community to the work of the Conservancy, and vice-versa.

Friends of Chichester Harbour

Founded in 1987, the Friends of Chichester Harbour is a charity with around 3,000 members. Members enjoy a programme of social activities. Income raised from membership fees is used to fund conservation, amenity and educational projects in partnership with Chichester Harbour Conservancy. In addition, volunteers support weekly Conservation Work Parties around Chichester Harbour, and the Harbour Watch initiative. The Friends also help with the governance of Chichester Harbour Conservancy. The Friends of Chichester Harbour are a Principal Partner for the delivery of the Management Plan, by providing funding for projects and through the co-ordination of opportunities to volunteer.

Chichester Harbour Trust

Chichester Harbour Trust was established in 2002 as a response to the rapid growth of development pressure in and around the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Since then, the Trust has acquired over 250 acres of land at 13 sites to help protect, conserve and enhance natural beauty. With ever-growing support from the local communities, the Trust works in partnership with Chichester Harbour Conservancy, local authorities, landowners, and other stakeholders who are interested in safeguarding the landscape for future generations. Chichester Harbour Trust is a Principal Partner for the delivery of the Management Plan, with a commitment to safeguarding the long-term protection of the Harbour environment.



Partnership Plans and Strategies

Wherever possible, the Management Plan will aim to help deliver other plans and strategies, whether nationally, across the South East or locally, or where there are clear shared priorities.

National

- A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
- Estuary Edges: Ecological Design Advice, Environment Agency
- Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Light Pollution, Institution of Lighting Professionals
- National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- National Planning Policy Guidance, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- Port Marine Safety Code, Department for Transport
- South Inshore Plan, Marine Management Organisation

South East

- Hampshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan, Hampshire County Council
- North Solent Shoreline Management Plan, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership
- Serving Hampshire, Hampshire County Council
- Solent Diffuse Water Pollution Plan, Natural England / Environment Agency
- Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy, Bird Aware Solent
- Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- South East River Basin Management Plan, Environment Agency
- West Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, West Sussex County Council
- West Sussex Minerals and Waste Local Plan, West Sussex County Council
- West Sussex Plan, West Sussex County Council

Local

- Chichester District Surface Water and Foul Drainage Supplementary Planning Document, Chichester District Council.
- Chichester Harbour AONB Joint Supplementary Planning Document, Havant Borough Council and Chichester District Council
- Chichester Harbour Emergency Plan, Chichester Harbour Conservancy
- Chichester Harbour Landscape Character Assessment, Chichester Harbour Conservancy / Chris Blandford Associates
- Chichester Harbour State of the AONB Report, Chichester Harbour Conservancy / Land Use Consultants (LUC)
- Chichester Local Plan, Chichester District Council
- Havant Local Plan (Core Strategy), Havant Borough Council
- Neighbourhood Plans
- Oil Spill Contingency Plan, Chichester Harbour Conservancy
- Port Marine Safety Code: Safety Plan & Marine Safety Management System, Chichester Harbour Conservancy
- Port Waste Management Plan, Chichester Harbour Conservancy
- Sustainable Shorelines: General Guidance, Chichester Harbour Conservancy / Royal Haskoning DHV
- Village Design Statements

Section 2

Chichester Harbour Policies

Guide to how the Policies are structured

The **Policy** is the agreed way in which Chichester Harbour will be managed so as to protect the special qualities and meet the Vision to 2050.



Policy 1 Conserving and Enhancing the Landscape

The distinctive landscape character of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is conserved and enhanced for the benefit of future generations.

The accompanying text provides **background information** in support of the policy.



An 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' is a landscape with the highest level of protection in UK law. The Chichester Harbour AONB landscape is characterised by open water, intertidal mud and sand, saltmarshes, shingle beaches, sand dunes, woodlands, meadows and grasslands, ponds and streams, coastal grazing marsh, reed beds, hedgerows, trees, ditches and farmland. Collectively, this is known as the **natural capital** of Chichester Harbour. The natural capital either directly or indirectly brings value to the Harbour and the country by providing us with food, clean air and water, wildlife, recreation and protection from some natural hazards.

The Harbour's coastline is made-up by distinctive features such as inlets and rythes that criss-cross the coastline. The coastline is fringed by wind-swept shingle beaches, saltmarshes, dunes and hedgerows.

The short list of **Management Challenges** collectively show the reasons why Chichester Harbour needs to be continually managed.



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES	PRINCIPAL PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts of climate change and sea level rise will change the landscape in years to come. Incremental urbanisation of the countryside. Loss of farmland hedgerows and trees. Land sold for development rather than bestowed in its natural beauty for the benefit of future generations. Installation of hard shoreline defences reduce naturalness of Harbour. Unauthorised developments threaten the landscape character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Chichester Harbour Conservancy Chichester Harbour Federation Chichester Harbour Partnership Chichester Harbour Trust

The list of **Principle Partners** are some of the indicative organisations that will help to deliver each policy.



The **list of actions** that are identified in this Management Plan are indicative. This means that as the Plan is realised, additional actions that will also help to the deliver the policy, may be implemented.



The **actions Chichester Harbour Conservancy will take** are a combination of statutory obligations, actions which are highly important for the management of the AONB, and new initiatives that the Conservancy would like to take.



Actions to be taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy:

- 1.1 To prepare and publish a new Chichester Harbour Landscape Character Assessment.
- 1.2 To better understand the likely short, medium, and long-term impacts of climate change on the landscape of Chichester Harbour.
- 1.3 To prepare and publish a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Chichester Harbour.
- 1.4 To prepare and publish a report on the natural capital of Chichester Harbour.
- 1.5 To identify key viewpoints that visually demonstrate the landscape character and annual fixed photography from these viewpoints to monitor changes.

The **actions other stakeholders** will take are initiatives that are to be taken forward by partners, with the support of, but not necessarily led by, Chichester Harbour Conservancy.



Actions to be taken by other stakeholders:

- 1.8 To support Chichester Harbour Trust to acquire new sites in the Harbour to provide long-term environmental protection.
- 1.9 To investigate opportunities for new landscape-scale conservation initiatives including the creation of new wildlife corridors between the Harbour and the South Downs, and along the Chichester Shoreline.
- 1.10 To utilise the planning system to help deliver the policy.
- 1.13 To remove hard shoreline defences in favour of natural shoreline management in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Policy 1 Conserving and Enhancing the Landscape

The distinctive landscape character of Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will continue to be conserved and enhanced for the benefit of current and future generations.

Page 416

An 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' is a landscape with the highest level of protection in UK law. The Chichester Harbour AONB landscape is characterised by open water, intertidal mud and sand, saltmarshes, shingle beaches, sand dunes, woodlands, meadows and grasslands, ponds and streams, coastal grazing marsh, reed beds, hedgerows, trees, ditches and farmland. Collectively, this is known as the **natural capital** of Chichester Harbour. The natural capital either directly or indirectly brings value to people and the country by providing us with food, clean air and water, wildlife, wood, recreation and protection from some natural hazards.

The Harbour's coastline is made-up by distinctive tidal channels, leading to numerous inlets and rythes that criss-cross expanses of saltmarsh and mudflats. The shoreline is fringed by wind-sculpted oaks and scrub, with open agricultural fields bounded by hedgerows. Historic coastal villages are defined by centuries of maritime association, and in the flat landscape, the vertical elements of church spires and old mills are important parts of its character. The low-lying coastal plain landscape is framed against the backdrop of the South Downs.

The dynamic landscape of Chichester Harbour is constantly changing in response to human activities and natural processes. Agriculture has developed; settlements have changed in both their appearance and extent; road traffic has increased and the industries associated with the Harbour have changed. Natural events and storm surges have also had a significant visual impact, for example on the sand dunes of East Head.



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES	PRINCIPAL PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in landscape due to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise in years to come. • Incremental urbanisation of the countryside. • Loss of farmland hedgerows and trees. • Land sold for development rather than bestowed in its natural beauty for the benefit of future generations. • Installation of hard shoreline defences reduces the naturalness of the Harbour. • Unauthorised developments not in keeping with the landscape character. • Unprotected land between Chichester Harbour and South Downs subject to increasing development pressure. • Detrimental impact on landscape of over-ground network infrastructure, particularly utility poles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) • Chichester Harbour Conservancy • Chichester Harbour Federation • Chichester Harbour Trust • Chichester Ship Canal Trust • Environment Agency • Farmers • Friends of Chichester Harbour • Individual Residents • Landowners • Local Authorities • National Association of AONBs • Natural England • Parish Councils • Residents Associations • South Downs National Park Authority • Universities

Actions to be taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy:

- 1.1 To prepare and publish a new Chichester Harbour Landscape Character Assessment.
- 1.2 To understand better the likely short, medium, and long-term impacts of climate change on the landscape of Chichester Harbour.
- 1.3 To prepare and publish a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Chichester Harbour.
- 1.4 To prepare and publish a report on the natural capital of Chichester Harbour.
- 1.5 To identify key viewpoints that visually demonstrate the AONB and thereafter to take annual fixed photography from those viewpoints, to help monitor future landscape changes.
- 1.6 In partnership with the Friends of Chichester Harbour, to deploy Volunteer Rangers (Conservation) to plant trees and lay hedgerows to help enhance the natural landscape.
- 1.7 The next round of data for the national Census will be collected in 2021. Following its subsequent publication, to prepare and publish an updated State of the AONB Report.

Page 417

Actions to be taken by other stakeholders:

- 1.8 To support Chichester Harbour Trust to acquire new sites in the Harbour to provide long-term environmental protection.
- 1.9 To investigate opportunities for new landscape-scale conservation projects, including the creation of new wildlife corridors between Chichester Harbour and the South Downs, and along the Chichester Ship Canal.
- 1.10 To utilise the planning system to help conserve the landscape and its setting.
- 1.11 To protect the historic and iconic views from the AONB towards Chichester Cathedral, to and from Kingley Vale National Nature Reserve, and to and from the South Downs.
- 1.12 To utilise the 'Sustainable Shorelines: General Guidance' document when considering repairing, replacing or strengthening shoreline defences, informing people about the issue of coastal squeeze.
- 1.13 To remove hard shoreline defences where they are no longer needed in consultation with relevant coastal protection authorities.



- 1.14 To proactively plan and rollback coastal footpaths, rather than lose them altogether through the gradual process of erosion.
- 1.15 To support activities that raise awareness of the AONB designation and the value of the landscape.
- 1.16 Wherever feasible in the AONB, to install all new utility cables underground.

Policy 2 Development Management

All development in Chichester Harbour will continue to conserve and enhance the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and be consistent with all other designations. Determinations on applications for planning permission and forms of consent will be consistent with the relevant policies of the relevant adopted Local Plan. Development outside of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but sufficiently close to the boundary, will not detrimentally impact the character and setting of the protected landscape. Mitigation for recreational disturbance will be sought for all new developments for dwellings within 5.6 kilometres of the Special Protection Area.

Page 418

Nationally protected landscapes have unique characteristics which make them attractive places to live, work and spend leisure time. This has led to pressure to increase the size of settlements, to infill within Settlement Policy Areas and, increasingly, to the construction of more substantial dwellings. This trend has become a dominant force in changing the landscape. Local Planning Authorities need to ensure that all new developments do not erode the special qualities that make Chichester Harbour an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Increased instances of recreational disturbance in Chichester Harbour, as a result of new developments within 5.6 kilometres of the Special Protection Area, is a serious concern and is further considered in Policy 8, Thriving Wildlife.

The relatively small size of Chichester Harbour has generally precluded any large developments inside the AONB in recent years, although this has resulted in added pressure on the land directly outside the AONB, which affects the character and setting. Urban extensions around Apuldram, Fishbourne, Bosham, Chidham & Hambrook, Southbourne, Emsworth and Hayling Island, could potentially lead to the loss of the distinctive identity of associated smaller settlements, the erosion of rural character and the loss of open views into and out of the AONB.

Local communities have a key role to play in the planning process. Their involvement in the development of Neighbourhood Plans and Village Design Statements is seen as important in identifying local needs and local design and these documents offer useful guidance in the planning process within the AONB. The Itchenor, West Wittering, Bosham, Emsworth, Northney and Tye and Langstone Village Design Statements have been adopted as Supplementary Planning Documents. Most villages within the AONB also have Neighbourhood Plans, which have considerable weight in the planning process. In 2017 the Joint Chichester Harbour AONB Supplementary Planning Document was adopted by the Local Planning Authorities, which provides design guidance for the AONB.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy is a non-statutory consultee within the planning system. The Conservancy has an established Planning Committee, and employs a Principal Planning Officer, to appraise new planning applications within or directly adjacent to the AONB, and to co-ordinate the Conservancy's response to strategic planning consultations. Recommendations to the respective Local Planning Authority are guided by the Management Plan and the Planning Principles. It is hoped that local communities will also use the Management Plan and Planning Principles as tools to respond to planning applications.



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES	PRINCIPAL PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a non-statutory consultee, Chichester Harbour Conservancy has limited control over development in the AONB. • The national requirement to build new houses is putting pressure on the environment, particularly in South East England. • There will be an increase in recreational disturbance as a direct consequence of new housing developments within 5.6 kilometres of the Special Protection Area. • New developments put increased pressure on the finite capacity of Waste Water Treatment Works. • Land outside the AONB and close to the boundary does not have the same level of protection, yet new developments in the buffer zone can damage the character and setting of the AONB. • There is a trend for existing large dwellings on the waterfront of the Harbour to be excessively rebuilt with a greater footprint and silhouette. • There are occasional new dwellings built that are out of character in the neighbourhood. • One of the few derelict sites in the AONB is at Burnes Shipyard (Bosham), and there is one long-term building site on the fringe of the AONB, at Yacht Haven (Hayling Island). • The number of greenhouses in and around the AONB contribute towards the high levels of light pollution at night. • Major developments in or close the AONB could have a significant detrimental impact. • Breaches of planning law have resulted in ongoing enforcement cases, which can damage the landscape of the AONB. • The shortage of affordable housing in Chichester Harbour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird Aware Solent • British Marine • Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) • Chichester Harbour Conservancy • Chichester Harbour Federation • Chichester Harbour Trust • Environment Agency • Historic England • Individual Residents • Local Authorities • Marine Management Organisation (MMO) • Natural England • Parish Councils • Residents Associations • South Downs National Park Authority • Southern Water

Actions to be taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy:

- 2.1 To appraise and respond to all planning applications in and directly around the AONB.
- 2.2 To offer a pre-application advice service.
- 2.3 To respond to national and local planning consultations.
- 2.4 To participate in all hearings, public inquiries and examinations in public that affect Chichester Harbour.

Actions to be taken by other stakeholders:

- 2.5 To utilise the planning system to conserve and enhance the AONB (Local Planning Authorities).
- 2.6 To offer a pre-application advice service (Local Planning Authorities, Natural England, etc.).
- 2.7 To take enforcement action where there are breaches of planning law (Local Planning Authorities).
- 2.8 To take enforcement action where there are breaches of statutory consents / permits (Environment Agency, Historic England, etc.).
- 2.9 To work to alleviate traffic congestion around Chichester Harbour.
- 2.10 To utilise the Management Plan, incorporating the Planning Principles, to inform local responses to planning applications (parish councils, residents associations, etc.).



Policy 3 Diversity of Habitats

The richness of the Harbour's natural habitats will continue to be conserved, restored and enhanced so wildlife can thrive and ecological systems remain healthy and valued. Aside from natural processes, there will be no net area loss of habitats in Chichester Harbour. With regards to any relevant new developments, the statutory obligation for net environment gains will be implemented.

The unique mixture of habitats in Chichester Harbour make it an important local, national, and international resource for nature conservation. The coastal plain encompasses a diverse suite of marine, intertidal and lowland habitats.

The **saltwater and freshwater habitats** of the Harbour are a priority for nature conservation. They have highly dynamic features, being heavily influenced by erosion, sedimentation and water flows. They are strongly influenced by topography, the chemical composition of the water, and the soils and land-use found in the surrounding catchment. They provide a wide range of specialized micro-habitats, and support many types of aquatic plants and animals. The adjacent **mudflats** are sedimentary intertidal habitats consisting of silts and clays with a high organic content. Mudflats are highly productive areas which, together with other intertidal habitats, support large numbers of predatory birds and fish. They provide feeding and resting areas for internationally important populations of migrant and wintering waterfowl, and are also valuable nursery areas for fish.

Chichester Harbour has the 7th largest area of **saltmarsh** in the UK (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2010). It is found on the upper part of the mud, which the water reaches only when the tide is high. It is covered in plants that can cope with salt and with regularly being underwater. Saltmarshes start life as mudflats and through a process called 'succession' the habitat naturally changes.



Each saltmarsh provides tidal nursery areas for fish, food for waders and wildfowl and nesting sites for waders and seabirds. Many of the plants growing on saltmarsh are not found anywhere else, making it an internationally important habitat.

The shoreline of Chichester Harbour includes **shingle beaches** leading up to the **strandline**, the area at the top of the beach where the high tide deposits material from the sea. This is made-up from natural debris, mainly seaweeds, and other flotsam and jetsam caught by tidal currents and washed-up onto the shore. The strandline supports a whole variety of creatures, especially invertebrates. These small animals provide an important source of food for larger birds and mammals. The strandline can help with the development of sand dunes. **Sand dunes** are another very fragile, but important, coastal habitat. Several birds like to nest in the dunes, including skylarks, meadow pipets and stonechats, with ringed plovers and oystercatchers nearby. The dunes are also home to a selection of invertebrates.

The **reed beds** at Fishbourne Meadows, Emsworth and Thorney Island can grow over two metres high and are very important for bird life and mammals, such as the iconic water vole. Water trickling through reed beds is cleaned by microorganisms living on the root system. This natural process helps with water purification by breaking down the pollutants in the water.

The **pastures** of Fishbourne Meadows are an important habitat, managed through grazing. The area has never been ploughed so it has a wide range of plant and insect species. Freshwater streams flow through the meadow keeping the area moist. In places, it is bordered by areas of woodland. Although there is limited cover of **grassland** in Chichester Harbour, one place it is found is at west Chidham where there are long term plans to enable the creation of new saltmarsh habitat. Chichester Harbour has been farmed for hundreds of years for the production of crops and to raise livestock. During this time, wildlife has moved into the **farmed landscape** to make the most of the riches it offers, from flower-filled field margins to bushy hedgerows, reed-lined ponds to seed-filled stubbles. The network of **ditches**, used for drainage purposes, provide essential wildlife corridors between habitats.

Woodlands are the most diverse of all the habitats found in Chichester Harbour. One single oak tree can support 350 different species of insect and have over 30 different lichen species on its bark (Forestry Commission, 2009). Wildlife also seeks food and shelter in the crevices of the bark, the canopy of fresh leaves, the hollow trunks of old trees, leaf litter and branches of dead wood and rotting wood on the woodland floor. Furthermore, woodlands remove harmful pollution and carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The two largest woodlands in Chichester Harbour, at Old Park Wood and Tournerybury, are both private estates. Other small copses found around the Harbour are collectively important to the natural landscape.

The Volunteer Rangers (Conservation) service was established by Chichester Harbour Conservancy and the Friends of Chichester Harbour in 2014. Since then, they have helped with coppicing, scrub and bramble clearance, weeding, tree planting and the creation of new ponds. They have also installed new fences, benches, signage, interpretation panels and other countryside infrastructure, as well as laying or resurfacing footpaths and occasionally, in support of the other Volunteer Rangers (Harbour Watch), litter picking. Finally, they have helped to maintain bird hides, repair shoreline defences, and regularly assist with community events

Chichester Harbour Conservancy and the Friends of Chichester Harbour help to manage the following sites, all of which are in the stewardship of Chichester Harbour Trust: Ellanore Spit (West Wittering), Fishbourne Meadows (Fishbourne), The Dell and Maybush Copse (Chidham), and Eames Farm (Thorney Island).



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES	PRINCIPAL PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saltwater and freshwater habitats are negatively affected by high levels of water pollution. This stimulates the growth of macro-algal weed on the mudflats, due to the high nitrate levels. • Saltmarsh habitat can be lost by the installation of hard sea defences which prevents the natural process of succession. This is called coastal squeeze. • Flotsam and jetsam in the strandline is accumulated litter, which is often unsightly and can be dangerous to humans and wildlife. • The sand dunes at East Head are subject to change both through natural processes and erosion, with the latter caused by trampling in restricted areas. • The reed beds require constant management otherwise they will naturally turn into woodland. • The loss of hedgerows, the arable margin and wildflower meadows as land has been repurposed. • The future of European designations (SAC, SPA, Water Framework Directive) is going through an uncertain period, which may impact on conservation measures. • Woodlands require sound management otherwise the diversity of species will decrease through loss of sunlight and an increase in species. • The threat of diseases to plants and trees, most notably Chalara dieback of ash (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>) first reported in the UK in 2012. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arun & Rother Rivers Trust • Arun & Western Streams Catchment Partnership • Associated British Ports • British Trust for Ornithology • Chichester Harbour Conservancy • Chichester Harbour Trust • Chichester Water Quality Group • East Head Coastal Issues Advisory Group • Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership • Environment Agency • Farmers • Forestry Commission England • Friends of Chichester Harbour • Hampshire Ornithological Society • Individual Residents • Landowners • Local Authorities • National Trust • Natural England • Parish Councils • Residents Associations • The RSPB • Solent Forum • Sussex Marine & Coastal Forum • Sussex Ornithological Society • Thorney Island Conservation Group • Universities • Wildfowlers • The Wildlife Trusts • The Woodland Trust

Chichester Harbour Conservancy owns or has a management agreement at these sites: Birdham Reserve (Birdham), Salterns Copse and Beaky's Wildlife Area (Apuldram), Stakes Island (Chidham), Nutbourne Marshes (Southbourne), Thornham Point (Thorney Island), North Common (North East Hayling Island), and Earnley Triangle (Hayling Island).

Other sites that Chichester Harbour Conservancy and the Friends of Chichester Harbour help others to look after include: Chalkdock Marsh (West Itchenor), Pilsley Island, Gutner Point and Sandy Point (Hayling Island).

Actions to be taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy:

- 3.1 In partnership with the Friends of Chichester Harbour, to deploy Volunteer Rangers (Conservation) to help with practical management tasks in the AONB.
- 3.2 To prepare and publish new 10-year management plans for all sites managed by Chichester Harbour Conservancy and/or Chichester Harbour Trust.
- 3.3 To improve the value of the AONB for the conservation of wildlife.
- 3.4 To continue to restrict public access to some particularly sensitive habitats.
- 3.5 To provide advice to landowners and homeowners about managing land and gardens for conservation.
- 3.6 To assess the conservation value of the large ponds in the AONB and thereafter to seek actions to improve biodiversity.

Actions to be taken by other stakeholders:

- 3.7 Identify sites in the AONB that can be improved for their biodiversity value.
- 3.8 To monitor the condition of the Site of Special Scientific Interest, the Special Area of Conservation, the Special Protection Area and the Ramsar Site.
- 3.9 To investigate opportunities for new managed realignment projects, to help create new saltmarsh.
- 3.10 To work with partners to identify and manage instances of tree disease.





Policy 4 Safety on the Water

Chichester Harbour Conservancy will undertake and regulate marine operations in a way that safeguards the Harbour, its users, the public and the environment, by implementing and demonstrating compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code.

Chichester Harbour is a vibrant centre for recreational boating. It encloses extensive areas of sheltered water at high-tide, making it an ideal location for small boat sailing. It is widely known for the high quality dinghy racing undertaken by most of the Harbour's 14 sailing clubs. The Harbour is also popular with larger cruising vessels that take advantage of easy access to the Solent and Channel ports and picturesque deep-water anchorages. The Harbour provides 2,000 marina berths and 3,200 swinging moorings to accommodate these vessels. The complement of Harbour vessels also includes a small commercial fishing fleet, charter anglers, visiting workboats and dredgers, and an array of other small craft including, kayaks, personal watercraft, and stand-up paddleboards. 10,500 craft in all and in fine weather swimmers join this mix.

The Conservancy is responsible for maintaining a marine environment that is safe for all Harbour users. This is principally achieved by managing safety in Chichester Harbour in accordance with the **Port Marine Safety Code** (the 'Code'). The Code establishes a national standard for port marine safety and a measure by which Statutory Harbour Authorities can be held accountable for their legal powers and duties to run their harbours safely.

The Conservancy has a wide range of duties and powers under its 1971 Act. Other harbour legislation is in place to manage safety, including the powers to make byelaws and Harbour Directions.

MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

- Danger to navigation caused by congestion and overcrowding on the water, particularly at weekends.
- Conflicts between different types of Harbour user which may also impact on safety of navigation, for example racing versus cruising, moorings versus navigation and the operation of fishing vessels.
- Need to balance aspirations for growth by maritime businesses with the Statutory Harbour Authority's responsibility for safety of navigation, and the statutory requirements of the nationally and internationally important environmental designations.
- Management of personal watercraft.
- New and developing classes of craft: foiling, asymmetrics, kite surfing, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, gig rowing and marine autonomous surface ships.
- Disruptions on quays and jetties during hot weather, including overcrowding and tombstoning (jumping into the water with a straight vertical posture).

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS

- Amateur Fishermen
- British Ports Association
- Chichester Harbour Conservancy
- Chichester Harbour Federation
- Langstone Harbour Board
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
- Professional Boatman's Association
- Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)
- Royal Yachting Association (RYA)
- Solent & Southern Harbour Masters Association
- Sussex IFCA
- Sussex Police and Hampshire Constabulary
- UK Harbour Masters' Association

Actions to be taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy:

- 4.1 To nominate Statutory Board Members to act as the 'Duty Holder' responsible for setting a standard for the safe management of the Harbour in accordance with the Code.
- 4.2 To nominate a suitably qualified 'Designated Person' responsible for providing independent assurance to the 'Duty Holder' that the Marine Safety Management System is working.
- 4.3 To review annually existing powers derived from local and national legislation, seeking additional powers if required in order to promote safe navigation.
- 4.4 To review and confirm compliance with duties and powers.
- 4.5 To complete and maintain risk assessments on all Harbour operations and implement control measures.
- 4.6 To operate an effective Marine Safety Management System, developed after consultation, based on risk assessment, and detailing the approach to incident investigation.
- 4.7 To monitor, review and seek Designated Person audit of the Marine Safety Management System annually.
- 4.8 To recruit competent staff, trained to industry standards with ongoing performance management.
- 4.9 To prepare and publish an annual Safety Plan.
- 4.10 To achieve full compliance with General Lighthouse Authority requirements.
- 4.11 To maintain staff job descriptions, allocating responsibility for the delivery of the Code.
- 4.12 To maintain Harbour Office Standing Instructions for safe delivery of the Conservancy's work programme.
- 4.13 To maintain a log of incidents and accidents on the Harbour and maintain a regime to review hazards and control measures.
- 4.14 To maintain Health & Safety at Work orders for the safe conduct of all activities performed by Conservancy employees.
- 4.15 To maintain a Patrol presence based on risk analysis.
- 4.16 To update Admiralty Chart 3418 – Langstone and Chichester Harbours by informing UK Hydrographic Office of all known changes to the hydrography of the Harbour and aids to navigation.

- 4.17 To maintain a fit-for-purpose fleet of vessels.
- 4.18 To issue seasonal Weekend Navigation Bulletins highlighting pinch points.
- 4.19 To publicise the Conservancy's Harmony leaflet and reinforce messages in other publications, talks and communications with yachtsmen.
- 4.20 To assess impacts of developments on safe navigation through the Planning Principles and Works Licences.
- 4.21 To take advantage of technological advancements to improve the Marine Safety Management System.
- 4.22 To prepare and publish a Vessel Movement Survey.

Actions to be taken by other stakeholders:

- 4.23 To prepare and publish risk control measures (Chichester Harbour Federation):
 - Code of Conduct for Racing
 - Risk Assessments for Racing and Events
 - De-confliction of racing programmes





Policy 5 Facilitating Navigation

Chichester Harbour Conservancy will continue to conserve the Harbour and discharge its open port duty. Users will be provided with adequate information about conditions in the Harbour.

Chichester Harbour is a dynamic environment shaped by the action of wind, wave and tide. Those processes continue; the vast shingle and sand banks of the Winner and Pilsey are always in a state of flux and beach levels can change significantly in short order. Ebb tides reaching 6.4 knots in the entrance ensure a steady supply of material to Chichester Bar, which requires regular monitoring and dredging to optimise safety and access to the Harbour.

A large tidal range, revealing significant areas of mudland at low-water, requires a significant focus on aids to navigation necessitating 35 main lights, 39 day marks and over 200 withies, to mark the 27 kilometres of navigable channels.

10,500 vessels require a comprehensive mix of facilities to support their activities and these are met through a combination of marinas, boatyards and mooring providers. Additionally Chichester Harbour Conservancy provides **infrastructure and services** that supports sailing opportunities for all sections of the marine community, and seeks to ensure that they blend sympathetically with landscape and are used in harmony with the wide variety of habitats. The Conservancy maintains jetties at Itchenor and Emsworth, a historic quay at Dell Quay, and a range of pontoons and launching hards around the Harbour.

The Conservancy will seek to provide mooring facilities and support services that are relevant in a tight and changing market.

Page 425

MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

- The dynamic environment and movement of sediments. The need to balance conduct works and dredging operations, in order to maintain safe navigation and recreational use, with the conflicting requirements of environmental designations.
- End of serviceable life for large numbers of glass reinforced plastic (fibreglass) vessels. No sustainable form of disposal and abandonment of vessels.
- Changing requirements of yachtsmen.
- Difficulty of enhancing facilities in a highly designated environment.

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS

- Amateur Fishermen
- Associated British Ports
- British Ports Association
- Burhill and Golf and Leisure Limited
- Chichester Harbour Conservancy
- Chichester Harbour Federation
- Chimet Support Group
- Langstone Harbour Board
- Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
- Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)
- Royal Yachting Association (RYA)
- UK Harbour Masters' Association

Actions to be taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy:

- 5.1 To ensure the Harbour has a modern and well-maintained system of navigation aids based on risk assessment and complying with The International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities system of buoyage (Region A).
- 5.2 To maintain channel marker posts and buoys.
- 5.3 To undertake regular bathymetric surveys of key areas such as Chichester Bar and Sandhead.
- 5.4 To seek to maintain a Charted depth of 1.5m below Chart Datum on Chichester Bar.
- 5.5 To regulate works and dredging below mean high water springs by Works Licences to maintain safety of navigation, the environment and landscape of the Harbour.
- 5.6 To support and sponsor, where appropriate, proposals for sustainable dredging in the Harbour to maintain safety of navigation and amenity value of the Harbour, in accordance with the Habitats Regulations and Water Framework Directive.
- 5.7 To maintain the Maintenance Dredging Baseline document.
- 5.8 Unless in exceptional circumstances, to refuse Works Licences for all new developments that may lead to an increase in the number of vessels accessing the water, e.g. new launching sites, stacking facilities or developments that would detrimentally impact on the environment.
- 5.9 To maintain Conservancy owned hards, pontoons and jetties in a safe and workable condition.
- 5.10 To regulate and set conditions for the number, location, size and standard for moorings in the Harbour in order to maintain safe navigation.
- 5.11 To maintain the moratorium on new moorings.
- 5.12 To discourage the increase in marina berths unless compensated for by wasting existing moorings.
- 5.13 To claw back deep-water mooring sites in key positions, when the licensee seeks to transfer or surrender them, and to exercise this policy with a presumption in favour of the Conservancy.
- 5.14 To regulate all moorings in the Harbour and to maintain a fleet of suitable vessels to fulfil Conservancy, moorings and control of navigation roles.
- 5.15 To provide facilities for yachtsmen which do not contribute to congestion and are sympathetic to the environment of the Harbour.

- 5.16 To promote sustainable boating through the development of facilities that reduce pollution of the marine environment.
- 5.17 To provide Harbour users with information on weather conditions and forecasts.
- 5.18 To investigate whether swinging moorings or pontoons represent the most environmentally and economically sustainable solution to mooring vessels in the Harbour.
- 5.19 To investigate alternative facilities to scrubbing piles to minimise any impacts to water quality.
- 5.20 To undertake a review of all boat facilities and future requirements, including moorings, pontoons and jetties.
- 5.21 To allocate designated anchorage areas and monitor their safe use.
- 5.22 To produce a strategy for end of life vessels and investigate upcycling/recycling options.
- 5.23 To undertake a review of required future facilities for stand-up paddleboards, kayaks, dinghies and their associated equipment, especially storage and launch sites.

Actions to be taken by other stakeholders:

- 5.24 To maintain all private aids to navigation, e.g. jetty lights, as a statutory requirement.



Policy 6 Water Quality

The water of Chichester Harbour will be appropriate to the high conservation value and recreational use of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Work will continue to manage sources of water pollution. Waste reception facilities will continue to be provided and oil spill response preparedness will be maintained. Research into pollution, including microplastics, will be undertaken.

Good water quality is fundamental for the overall health of Chichester Harbour. Water quality sustains ecological processes that support native fish and invertebrate populations, vegetation, wetlands and birdlife. In addition, many people rely on good water quality for recreational use. Water quality can be reduced by **nutrient enrichment, excessive levels of bacteria**, and **toxic substances** such as heavy metals. In terms of the Harbour's designations, one of the most significant detrimental impacts is from excessive nutrients causing the Harbour to be eutrophic. This causes excessive growth of macroalgal weed, which smothers intertidal habitats, preventing birds from feeding and in the worst cases excluding oxygen so that the mud can no longer support the invertebrates that many species rely on. Macroalgal weed also blocks the cooling water intakes on vessels, slows sailing dinghies, and accumulates on the strandline.

The Harbour receives inputs of nitrates from several sources, including from the wider Solent and agricultural run-off. This **diffuse pollution** is tackled through a number of initiatives including the Solent Diffuse Water Pollution Plan, Catchment Sensitive Farming, and the Downs and Harbours Clean Water Partnership. Three Waste Water Treatment Works and eight combined outflows discharge into the Harbour. Heavy rain and high groundwater conditions put pressure on Waste Water Treatment Works. In these conditions, the nutrients in sewage are untreated before being discharged into Chichester Harbour.



The bacterial quality of the water is assessed monthly. Samples of oysters are collected from sites around the Harbour and they are tested to confirm they are within the parameters for harvesting and to determine the level of water treatment required. While there has been a gradual improvement over recent years the Harbour is still subject to regular failures and prohibitions from catching and selling shellfish from affected areas. There is no statutory standard for recreational waters and Chichester Harbour is not designated as a Bathing Water. However, discharges into the Harbour may have environmental health implications for sailors, and Chichester Harbour Conservancy, in partnership with Chichester District Council, undertakes a monitoring programme at 11 sites. The results are presented to the public, measured against the European Bathing Water Directive to allow the level of risk to be assessed. The addition of ultraviolet (UV) treatment to the storm discharge at Chichester Waste Water Treatment Works since 2013 has seen a marked improvement in these results.

The Water Framework Directive aims to protect and improve the chemical and ecological quality of rivers, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwaters. Every water body will be required to reach Good Chemical Status and Good Ecological Status. Chichester Harbour, however, is designated as a Heavily Modified Water Body and some of the parameters identified to reach Good Ecological Status are affected by the physically modified nature of the Harbour, or its use, and as such Good Ecological Potential is the required status. This does not relate to nutrient levels or good chemical status, which are not affected by the physical modifications, or its navigational use. The current Water Framework Directive overall water body classification for Chichester Harbour is Moderate Status (as of 2019), with an objective to achieve Good Potential by 2027. Chichester Harbour has Moderate Ecological Status and Moderate Status for physico-chemical quality elements (as of 2019), with objectives to achieve Good Status for both by 2027.

The Chichester Harbour Site of Special Scientific Interest is currently classified by Natural England, as of 2019, as being mostly in Unfavourable Recovering condition (82% of the SSSI). There is a threat to the recovery of the majority of the Harbour due to the potential water quality changes from housing growth and the uncertainty around efficacy of executing measures to tackle diffuse pollution.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy maintains an Oil Pollution Preparedness Plan, and a Ports Waste Management Plan on behalf of all the Harbour's marine waste producers, which conforms to the requirements of Marpol Convention Annex V. A free pump-out facility is provided at Itchenor for vessels needing to empty holding tanks.



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES	PRINCIPAL PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New developments put pressure on Waste Water Treatment Works. • Storm water discharges from Water Waste Treatment Works and related sewer overflows, consisting of sewage effluent mixed with rain water, can occur following periods of prolonged or heavy rain and when the level of groundwater is high. • When there is insufficient headroom for development, developers may resort to package treatment plants, which may have similar environmental implications. • The maintenance of septic tanks and cesspits. • Farming operations, including fertilizers and animal manure, which are both rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, are one of the primary sources of nutrient pollution. • Discharges from recreational boats and run-off from antifouling paint are minor sources of water pollution. • The dumping of green waste (e.g. grass cuttings) in the Harbour or on the harbourside is a minor source of water pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arun & Rother Rivers Trust • Arun & Western Streams Catchment Partnership • British Marine • Chichester Harbour Conservancy • Chichester Harbour Federation • Chichester Water Quality Group • Downs & Harbours Clean Water Partnership • Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership • Environment Agency • Farmers • Individual Residents • Landowners • Local Authorities • Marine Conservation Society • Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) • Natural England • Parish Councils • Residents Associations • Royal Yachting Association (RYA) • Solent Forum • Southern Water • Sussex Marine & Coastal Forum • Universities



Actions to be taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy:

- 6.1 To maintain and exercise an Oil Spill Contingency Plan.
- 6.2 To maintain a Harbour Port Waste Management Plan and look for ways to increase recycling.
- 6.3 To maintain and exercise a Marine and Coastguard Agency compliant Oil Pollution Response Plan, a Tier 1 response capability and a contract with an approved contractor for a Tier 2 response to an oil spill in the Harbour.
- 6.4 To support and promote The Green Blue, the Royal Yachting Association and British Marine's initiative, to encourage environmental best practice.
- 6.5 To continue to provide a pump out station in the Harbour.
- 6.6 To investigate the scale and impacts of microplastics and microfibers on water quality and introduce measures to minimise their circulation.

Actions to be taken by other stakeholders:

- 6.7 To work with the Chichester Water Quality Group to help maintain and improve water quality discharged from the Waste Water Treatment Works
- 6.8 To improve the bacterial quality of storm discharges by the UV treatment at Chichester Waste Water Treatment Works.
- 6.9 To ensure all new housing developments have suitable sewage provision, resisting any new planning applications for private sewage outlets that discharge into Chichester Harbour.
- 6.10 To use evidence to influence decision making and investment in protecting and enhancing important habitats and species, and water quality improvements (e.g. Shellfish Valuation Study, 2018; Natural Capital (Water Quality) of the Solent Study, 2018/19).
- 6.11 To continue to monitor water quality levels at strategic locations around the Harbour.
- 6.12 To address any water misconnections.
- 6.13 To engage with Catchment Sensitive Farming initiatives.
- 6.14 To continue to monitor macro-algal weed coverage mapping (Environment Agency).
- 6.15 To work with universities and other partners to understand the efficacy of sustainable commercial seaweed harvesting, a short-term solution to remove algae mats impacting mudflats and saltmarsh.
- 6.16 To work with marinas, sailing clubs and boat yards to manage antifouling on boats.
- 6.17 To raise local awareness not to dispose of green waster in the Harbour is leave it on the harbourside.

Policy 7 Catchment Sensitive Farming

The farms and water catchments surrounding Chichester Harbour are the dominant landform of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. They will continue to be sustainably managed to protect the nationally important landscape designation and promote biodiversity

Page 430

Some of the richest agricultural land anywhere in the country can be found in the lowlands around Chichester Harbour. It is widely recognised that farmers and the type of farming practiced can either have a direct positive impact (e.g. organic, sustainable land management), or direct negative impact (e.g. use of chemicals, like fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides), on biodiversity and the overall wellbeing of the landscape. Traditionally agriculture has been the single most important practice shaping the land of Chichester Harbour. Farming and land use has evolved over the centuries in response to consumer demands and market forces and continues to do so today. The number and size of land holdings has changed, along with field sizes and cropping patterns. These factors directly affect the landscape character of the AONB.



Catchment Sensitive Farming is a partnership approach designed to help farmers and a range of other partners to improve water and air quality in High Priority Areas, by offering free training, advice and support for grant applications. The land of Chichester Harbour, extending north into the South Downs, is a High Priority Area. The first aim of Catchment Sensitive Farming is to save farms money by introducing careful nutrient and pesticide planning, thereby reducing soil loss and helping farmers to meet their statutory obligations such as in **Nitrate Vulnerable Zones**. The land surrounding Chichester Harbour, extending north into the South Downs, is a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone. The second aim is to deliver environmental benefits such as reducing water pollution, cleaner drinking water, safer bathing water, healthier fisheries, thriving wildlife and lower flood risk for the whole community.



However, farming faces increasing challenges from an uncertain future, in terms of risks to the long established programme of subsidies. The way farming responds to these financial pressures will inevitably impact upon the landscape and wildlife. With a lack of clarity around the future of government policy, as of 2019, the risk is that some conservation programmes may come to an end. Longer term, climate change will also have an impact on agriculture, affecting average temperatures, with heat waves, inclement weather, higher levels of rainfall and the advent of new pests and diseases. Both political pressures and the advent of climate change are high concerns to farmers and may have a significant impact on the AONB.

Meanwhile, local farmers have also been implementing opportunities to diversify the farm business by developing new products (e.g. dairy ice cream) and by converting farm buildings (e.g. for tearooms or self-catering accommodation). Increasingly, there has been a move towards promoting local produce for sale in local shops and farmers' markets. Initiatives like 'Three Harbours Beef', which markets beef that has been raised on local grazing marshes, continue to be supported. Organic smallholdings are increasingly popular as society takes a greater interest in the provenance of food.

MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES	PRINCIPAL PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat of nitrates from fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides (diffuse pollution) impacting upon the water quality of the Harbour. • Farmers face an uncertain future as government policy continues to evolve. There is some concern that land will be squeezed for productivity, if there is a delay between existing conservation programmes and the commencement of new schemes. • Market forces and the challenging economic climate make it harder for farmers to manage land in a less intensive or organic way. • Advent of climate change will impact on traditional farming practices. • The reduction of livestock farming and traditional farming practices has affected the landscape character. • The need to capture and build on the public interest in food and farming to promote a deeper understanding of how they influence and support biodiversity and the landscape of the AONB. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arun & Rother Rivers Trust • Arun & Western Streams Catchment Partnership • Chichester Harbour Conservancy • Chichester Harbour Trust • Country Land and Business Association (CLA) • Downs and Harbours Clean Water Partnership • Environment Agency • Farmers • Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) South East • Individual Residents • Landowners • Local Authorities • National Farmers Union (NFU) • Natural England • Universities

Actions to be taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy:

- 7.1 To provide advice to farmers and land managers on management techniques that enhance the nature conservation and landscape value of farms within the AONB.
- 7.2 To seek permissive access and educational opportunities within the farmed landscape of the AONB.
- 7.3 To hold Countryside Open Farm Days to raise awareness of the importance of farming in the AONB.
- 7.4 To publicise examples of best practice farming and land management in the AONB, and where relevant, in partnership with Chichester Harbour Trust.
- 7.5 To investigate opportunities to diversify the use of Eames Farm, Thorney Island, complementing the range of environmental designations.

Actions to be taken by other stakeholders:

- 7.6 To identify and promote new opportunities for agri-environment schemes.
- 7.7 To promote Catchment Sensitive Farming and initiatives which reduce the nutrient input into the Harbour.
- 7.8 To support initiatives which promote local marketing, processing and distribution of high quality distinctive local food demonstrating good environmental credentials.

Policy 8 Thriving Wildlife

The abundant wildlife and plants of Chichester Harbour will continue to be cherished, respected, allowed space to flourish, and will live in harmony with humans. Ongoing species research will continue to help inform management decisions.

Page 432

Chichester Harbour is a birdwatcher's paradise because it is **internationally important for its birdlife**. The Special Protection Area, which was designated to protect the birdlife, was awarded in recognition of 15 species of non-breeding waders and waterfowl, three species of breeding tern and for its overall water bird assemblage. Peak counts of water birds in mid-winter regularly exceed 48,000, with **dark-bellied brent geese** and **dunlin** the two most abundant species. The Conservancy works closely with Bird Aware Solent to help manage levels of recreational disturbance in the Special Protection Area.

Recreational disturbance is the term used to describe the actions of humans directly causing wildlife to move, take flight or 'flush' for fear of predation. One of the most pertinent forms of disturbance comes from dogs that may instinctively charge towards birds as they are resting or feeding. Research undertaken by Bird Aware Solent found that on average 1 in 4 households have a dog in south east England, which results in a lot of dog walking around



Chichester Harbour, and potentially frequent disruptions to the wildlife as more houses are built. Threatened and endangered species are considered to be particularly vulnerable to this form of disturbance and specifically, during the overwintering period. To help address this, all new developments within 5.6 kilometres of the Special Protection Area are required to pay a levy to be used to raise awareness of recreational disturbance and thereby help to mitigate the problem. Aside from the overwintering birds, Chichester Harbour is also important for passage migrants such as **osprey**, which stop off to feed and rest on their way to and from their breeding grounds in northern England and Scotland.

Chichester and Langstone Harbours have **the largest colony of harbour seals and grey seals in the Solent**, with annual counts revealing that numbers are gradually increasing. Recent counts have shown there are around 40 harbour (common) seals and 10 grey seals in late summer. Previous monitoring of the movement of seals (Solent Seal Tagging Project, 2010) proved that they were foraging throughout the Solent and along the Sussex coast. .

The Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) has carried out biennial small fish surveys in Chichester Harbour since 2010, in collaboration with Chichester Harbour Conservancy. So far, 48 species have been recorded, with **herring, common gobies, sand smelt, golden grey mullet, black bream and bass** forming the bulk of the samples. These surveys illustrate the importance of the Harbour as a designated Bass Nursery. Other sub-tidal species include **peacock worm** and **squat lobster**.

Historically, Chichester Harbour has also supported a large **oyster** fishery. It is open for a short period each autumn to licensed vessels and is regulated by Sussex IFCA.

The ditches, streams and ponds within Chichester Harbour also support populations of **water voles** which require sensitively managed waterside vegetation, and well-connected wetland areas. Many of the hedges, orchards and woodlands support populations of **bats** and **hedgehogs**.

A number of sites around the Harbour, such as some upper saltmarshes, shingle ridges and coastal grasslands are botanically rich. Fishbourne Meadows is notable for its population of **southern marsh orchids**, and Ellanore Spit for its community of shingle plants including **sea kale**. In late summer, many of the Harbour's saltmarshes bloom with extensive patches of **sea lavender**.

Page 433



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES	PRINCIPAL PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National decline in nature through decreasing wildlife and biodiversity. • Recreational disturbance, particularly to wintering birds but also to other species such as seals and water voles. • Chichester Harbour is a designated Bass Nursery Area and its fish stocks need to be protected. • High levels of night time light pollution have detrimental impact on nocturnal animals. • Storm surges may damage key habitats, like shingle banks and sand dunes. • Uncertainty as to how climate change will impact on the variety of habitats and wildlife. • Over collection of ragworm. • Uncontrolled collection of clams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arun & Rother Rivers Trust • Arun & Western Streams Catchment Partnership • Bird Aware Solent • British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) • Chichester Harbour Conservancy • Chichester Harbour Trust • Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership • Environment Agency • Farmers • Friends of Chichester Harbour • Hampshire Ornithological Society • Individual Residents • Landowners • Langstone Harbour Board • Local Authorities • Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group (MW&HG) • National Trust • Natural England • Parish Councils • Residents Associations • The RSPB • Sussex IFCA • Sussex Ornithological Society • Thorney Island Conservation Group • Wildfowlers • The Wildlife Trusts

Actions to be taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy:

- 8.1 In partnership with the British Trust for Ornithology, to deploy Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) volunteer counters to monitor Special Protection Area birds throughout the year, including breeding bird surveys.
- 8.2 To create a variety of secure, safe seabird breeding sites, which may include islands and use of fences to prevent access by foxes.
- 8.3 To install floating tern rafts at appropriate locations around the Harbour.
- 8.4 To develop new management agreements to secure important wintering and breeding bird sites.
- 8.5 To prepare and publish a new Priority Species Strategy for Chichester Harbour.
- 8.6 To raise awareness about the issue of recreational disturbance.
- 8.7 In partnership with Langstone Harbour Board, to monitor the seal population and investigate their diet and behaviour.
- 8.8 To undertake a new sub-tidal survey of Chichester Harbour.

Actions to be taken by other stakeholders:

- 8.9 To improve habitats for pollinators and insects.
- 8.10 To implement the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy.
- 8.11 To invest developer contributions through Bird Aware Solent to help look after the Special Protection Area.
- 8.12 To ensure known water vole sites are sensitively managed.
- 8.13 To only plant native species in Chichester Harbour whilst removing non-native plant species.
- 8.14 To ensure fish and shellfish stocks are carefully and sustainably managed for future generations (businesses, Sussex IFCA, etc.).
- 8.15 In develop and implement new small-scale conservation projects (Wildfowlers).
- 8.16 To promote and participate in relevant national campaigns, including the Garden Bird Survey, the Farmland Bird Survey and Big Butterfly Count.



Policy 9 Health and Wellbeing

Chichester Harbour will continue to be recognised as an exceptional place for people to undertake outdoor exercise. The landscape will continue to be enjoyed by walkers, cyclists, sailors and boaters, with opportunities available to try water sports, like kayaking, canoeing, stand-up paddleboarding and rowing in ways that respect nature. For many others, the chance to simply rest and relax in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will benefit everyday wellbeing.

There is increasing awareness of the health benefits of the countryside (Outdoor Recreation Network, 2016). Chichester Harbour is an excellent place to participate in a range of outdoor activities. There are 56 miles of Public Rights of Way and 7.5 miles of permissive paths around Chichester Harbour. **Walking**, jogging and running are simple, free, and some of the easiest ways to be active. Sometimes overlooked as a form of exercise, they all help to build stamina and stay fit.

Likewise, **cycling** is excellent for cardiovascular fitness. It is also good for the environment as a low impact form of transport. The Salterns Way cycle route, established in 2006, has grown in popularity and is in regular use. The route connects West Wittering to the City of Chichester and some stretches of the route are also accessible for wheelchair users.

There are many health benefits to **sailing and boating**. Whether gently relaxing out on the water or competing at high speeds against other boats, the activity can be great for levels of fitness. Controlling a large vessel and adjusting constantly to the elements brings both mental and physical challenges. These include strengthening muscles, cardiovascular benefits, mental wellbeing, concentration, communication and spatial awareness.



Paddlesports provide a cardiovascular workout and are excellent for aerobic fitness, strength and flexibility. Kayaking and canoeing are particularly good for torso and leg strength, as the power to canoe or kayak comes mainly from rotating the torso and applying pressure with the legs. Moving a paddle improves muscle strength particularly in the back, arms, shoulders and chest. Since the user is in control of the vessel, there is a choice whether to be active, which can be exhilarating, or a gentle user, which is more peaceful and meditative. Meanwhile, **rowing** is increasing in popularity in Chichester Harbour, with some sailing clubs, the Langstone Pilot Gig Club, and the Langstone Cutters Rowing Club offering opportunities to participate. As well as having the health and wellbeing benefits of paddlesports, this type of rowing improves co-ordination skills through teamwork.

Chichester Harbour stands out from other outdoor spaces because the natural surroundings have been proven to reduce stress and tension. For example, studies from the University of Essex (2007), the Royal College of GPs (2015), and the University of Reading (2017) have found that time spent in the countryside or on the water can dramatically lower the heart rate, blood pressure, muscle tension, stress, as well as the risks of obesity. It can also cut recovery time from illnesses and boost mental wellbeing. There are many indirect benefits of being in the countryside as well. For example, feeling fitter provides a holistic boost, providing the energy and motivation for people to pursue other activities, as well as improving sleep.

Instances of noise, light and air pollution in Chichester Harbour all need to be managed so they do not have a negative impact on the range of opportunities available in the AONB to improve health and wellbeing.

MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES	PRINCIPAL PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise pollution from harbourside building works and occasional parties with loud music. Other causes are aerobatic displays and low flying paramotors. Remote control helicopters and the increasing popularity of drones are also sources of noise pollution. • High levels of light pollution have detrimental impact on the wellbeing of humans and wildlife. • Road traffic congestion impacts on air pollution and stress levels. • The need to establish more cycle routes around Chichester Harbour. • A shortage of bridleways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chichester Harbour Conservancy • Chichester Harbour Federation • Chichester Harbour Trust • Civil Aviation Authority • Disability Groups (Chichester Access Group, Havant Area Disability Access Group) • Friends of Chichester Harbour • Hayling Helis • Healthcare Establishments (Sussex Community NHS Trust, Hampshire Community Health Care) • Individual Residents • Landowners • Langstone Cutters Rowing Club • Langstone Pilot Gig Club • Local Authorities • Manhood Peninsula Partnership • Natural England • Parish Councils • Residents Associations • Royal Yachting Association (RYA) • Sustrans • Thorney Island Conservation Group • Universities • Woodger Trust

Actions to be taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy:

- 9.1 To promote the health benefits of spending time in Chichester Harbour.
- 9.2 To promote the England Coast Path as a destination and 'Living Coasts' after it is established.
- 9.3 To keep the footpaths in the AONB in a safe and usable condition (i.e. those owned or managed by Chichester Harbour Conservancy).
- 9.4 To manage harbourside memorial benches.
- 9.5 To investigate opportunities to increase the number of wheelchair accessible paths.
- 9.6 To organise several guided walks every year.
- 9.7 To publish a new list of downloadable self-guided walks around Chichester Harbour on the Conservancy's website.
- 9.8 To enhance and promote the Salterns Way cycle route.
- 9.9 To maintain the surface of the Salterns Way in a safe and usable condition.
- 9.10 In partnership with the Friends of Chichester Harbour, to develop and implement a programme of footpath inspections every 15 months.
- 9.11 In partnership with the Friends of Chichester Harbour, to develop and implement a programme of Salterns Way inspections every 9 months.

Actions to be taken by other stakeholders:

- 9.12 To keep all the footpaths in the AONB in a safe and usable condition (i.e. those not owned or managed by Chichester Harbour Conservancy).
- 9.13 To promote opportunities for visitors to access Chichester Harbour sustainably through reduced car use and improved public transport and cycling links.
- 9.14 To encourage cyclists not to cycle on the footpaths.
- 9.15 To work with local businesses and philanthropic organisations to seek sponsorship for new cycle ways.
- 9.16 To explore possibilities to extend the Salterns Way around the Manhood Peninsula, including across Medmerry and on to Pagham Harbour.
- 9.17 Where feasible, to explore possibilities to create new cycle routes, bridleways and multiuse paths around Chichester Harbour.
- 9.18 To offer opportunities to participate in sailing, boating, paddlesports and rowing.

Policy 10 Enjoying Sailing and Boating

Chichester Harbour is one of the busiest recreational harbours in the country. The estuary will continue to be managed for the peaceful enjoyment of sailing and boating.

Chichester Harbour remains an unspoilt and peaceful estuary enjoyed by an estimated 25,000 sailors each year. **The 2018 Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitor Survey identified the three most popular reasons for sailing in the Harbour: its natural location, with access to the Solent; the scenic landscape qualities; and the favourable sailing conditions.** There is a balance to maintain between encouraging people to enjoy the Harbour afloat, while also preventing congestion and the dangers that come with it. Since it was established in 1971, the Conservancy has taken steps to manage the number of boats on the Harbour, to reduce conflict between different interest groups on the water and to improve the boating infrastructure.

Page 437



This is achieved by using a prescriptive moorings policy to control the number of vessels; keeping areas of the Harbour clear for sailing; and supporting sailing clubs and boatyards. The Conservancy promotes peaceful enjoyment by encouraging courtesy and good behaviour, rather than relying on rules and regulations to control vessels.

The Conservancy facilitates opportunities for non-sailors to enjoy the Harbour by boat. It operates *Solar Heritage*, a solar powered catamaran, with space for up to 50 passengers. The vessel takes trips around Chichester Harbour all year round, with commentary from experienced guides about the importance of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. *Solar Heritage* has also been adapted for wheelchair users. The engines are virtually silent, so as she glides along, passengers can admire the view and the habitats and birdlife that help make Chichester Harbour so special.

The Friends of Chichester Harbour, in partnership with Emsworth Yacht Harbour operate a passenger vessel, called oysterboat *Terror*, which is considered in Policy 15, Historic Environment and Heritage Assets.

Several commercial passenger vessels also operate in Chichester Harbour, collectively enhancing the visitor experience.



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES	PRINCIPAL PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The peaceful enjoyment of sailing can be disturbed by congestion and overcrowding on the water, particularly at weekends in the summer. • There may also be conflicts between different types of vessels and a lack of understanding and consideration of the needs of others. • Linked to recreational disturbance, there is a growing need to better manage the impact of recreational boating and facilities on the environmentally designated sites and species. • Differing objectives between the management of marinas and the management of the AONB. • Increasing pressure for marina berths to be used for people living onboard, or 'Beds-on-Board' rentals. • Increasing concern for water quality, which affects the experience of sailors and boaters. • Changing market conditions, including an aging population of recreational sailors and boaters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amateur Fishermen • Associated British Ports • British Marine • British Ports Association • Chichester Harbour Conservancy • Chichester Harbour Federation • Friends of Chichester Harbour • Langstone Cutters Gig Club • Langstone Pilot Gig Club • Langstone Harbour Board • Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) • Royal National Lifeguard Association (RNLI) • Royal Yachting Association (RYA) • Solent Forum • Sussex Marine & Coastal Forum • UK Harbour Masters' Association

Actions to be taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy:

- 10.1 To maintain up-to-date byelaws and Harbour Directions for the management and regulation of all types of vessels in order to ensure the safe and peaceful use of the Harbour.
- 10.2 To maintain a patrol presence on the Harbour to enforce byelaws, give directions and to offer advice and assistance to mariners.
- 10.3 To continue to increase maritime awareness and knowledge among Harbour users.
- 10.4 To maintain and exercise a Harbour Emergency Plan liaising and co-ordinating, as appropriate, with other emergency services and local authorities.
- 10.5 To maintain and enforce the 8-knot speed limit.
- 10.6 To discourage an overall increase in size of vessels using the Harbour.
- 10.7 To monitor vessel movements to determine levels of congestion.
- 10.8 To maintain a ban on water skiing, kite surfing and similar activities.
- 10.9 To encourage the development of sail and small boat training.
- 10.10 To licence commercial vessels and masters operating within the Harbour carrying fewer than 12 passengers. (Issued subject to the conditions of the Conservancy).
- 10.11 To continue to operate the *Solar Heritage* catamaran, a year-round passenger vessel, and plan for her long-term replacement.

Actions to be taken by other stakeholders:

- 10.12 To provide opportunities for people to learn how to safely sail and boat in Chichester Harbour.
- 10.13 To raise awareness of the Solent Seals Code of Conduct.



Policy 11 Excellence in Education

The stunning estuary of Chichester Harbour is a place where people of all ages and abilities can develop an understanding and appreciation of one of England's most cherished landscapes. The Chichester Harbour Education Service will continue to work with visiting schools and colleges, thereby enabling children and young people to learn about the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The variety of habitats and its coastal location make Chichester Harbour an **ideal outdoor learning environment**. Since the opening of the Education Centre in 1999, the Conservancy has developed a sophisticated and well-structured formal education programme open to students of all ages, working in close co-operation with Hampshire and West Sussex schools as well as those from further afield. This programme covers the complete range of educational establishments from primary to adult, and includes special education as well as specialist interest groups.



Over 11,000 pupil sessions are run each year (one session is a single pupil visiting the Harbour for half-a-day). This figure includes field trips in several Harbour locations as well as afloat, using *Solar Heritage*. The Conservancy is committed to giving pupils and students the opportunity to explore the natural environment, learning and developing new skills from the Harbour experience. Beaky's Wildlife Area, which is near to the classroom at Dell Quay, provides a location for younger children to learn. It is also a suitable space for special educational needs groups to enjoy time outside in a safe environment.

The formal education programme continues to be developed in the context of the Management Plan and in relation to the demands of the National Curriculum. This results in curriculum-related activities designed to bring a better understanding of, and a sense of guardianship for, this protected landscape. Education provision works closely with local Environmental Education Groups. The established learning programmes focus on outdoor and first-hand experiences, including art and photography, coasts and rivers, citizenship (Junior Conservancy), history, investigating animals, plants and habitats, literacy and numeracy, and life skills.

The Chichester Harbour Education Service benefits from a team of expert and highly valued Education Volunteers, who support the service in all areas of its work. They are an essential part of the team, providing an 'extra pair of eyes' when supervising large groups of young people, during busy outdoor learning sessions.

MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES	PRINCIPAL PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparatively few schools visit the Harbour during winter months even though there is much to see and do during this important time of the year. • Visits to Chichester Harbour can be financially prohibitive for some educational establishments. • There is scope for a greater volume of graduate and postgraduate research to take place at Chichester Harbour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chichester Harbour Conservancy • Chichester Harbour Federation • Chichester Harbour Trust • Chichester Ship Canal Trust • Friends of Chichester Harbour • Colleges • Institute of Outdoor Learning • Primary Schools • Secondary Schools • South Downs National Park Authority • Special Educational Needs Schools • Universities • Woodger Trust



Actions to be taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy:

- 11.1 To deliver a curriculum-linked Chichester Harbour Education Service which provides staff and resources for visiting educational establishments.
- 11.2 To deploy Education Volunteers to help facilitate visiting educational establishments.
- 11.3 To deliver the Junior Conservancy programme, which enables children to understand real life issues in Chichester Harbour and then debate them in the Council's Chamber.
- 11.4 To deliver a local outreach programme called Harbour Schools.

- 11.5 To develop and maintain new relationships with schools within reasonable commutable distance that are not currently taking advantage of the educational opportunities of Chichester Harbour.
- 11.6 In partnership with the Friends of Chichester Harbour, to try and overcome any barriers to accessing the Education Service (e.g. transport, affordability, etc.).
- 11.7 To encourage more winter school visits, for example, to engage pupils with the range of overwintering birds only present at that time of year.
- 11.8 In partnership with the Friends of Chichester Harbour, to offer subsidised *Get Afloat!* trips on *Solar Heritage* to groups that would not otherwise be able to go out on the water.

Actions to be taken by other stakeholders:

- 11.9 To engage with different water user groups (dinghy, racing, cruising, and powerboat, etc.) raising awareness about good environmental practice (sailing clubs, Chichester Harbour Federation, etc.)
- 11.10 To provide education opportunities for special educational needs groups.

Policy 12 Connecting People to Nature

Local communities are fundamentally important to Chichester Harbour and the long-term protection of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Chichester Harbour will continue to be a place where people develop positive relationships with the natural environment, thereby fostering a long-term sense of guardianship.

Page 441

Geographically, there are over a dozen neighbourhood communities around the Harbour. In West Sussex, these include the Parish Councils of West Wittering, West Itchenor, Birdham, Apuldram, Fishbourne, Bosham, Chidham & Hambrook and Southbourne. In Hampshire, there are the residents associations of Emsworth, Langstone, North East Hayling Island and South Hayling. In addition to these, there are also societies, like the Itchenor Society, and associations, like the Bosham Association and the Langstone Village Association, and some Friends groups, like the Friends of Maybush Copse and the Friends of Nore Barn Woods. Furthermore, there are many specialist interest groups too, with members enjoying activities such as walking, stargazing, bird watching and fishing. Collectively, they are all **Harbour communities**. The largest single community in Chichester Harbour is the sailing community, and many of those participants are also Friends of Chichester Harbour, who have helped to look after the environment since 1987.

Activities are a way in which people connect with the natural environment. In doing so, they can create a personal value on their subject matter, whether it is taking a photograph, painting a picture, crafting something new, or for the young generation, going crabbing for the first time.



Activities are one way in which people can connect people with nature. Every year Chichester Harbour Conservancy organises a programme of guided walks and activities to help connect people to nature. The programme is supported by Volunteer Rangers (Activities) who provide expert talks on a variety of topics, including wildflowers, dragonflies and damselflies, morning bird song, and the colony of seals. Other volunteers also help with the programme of guided walks and with events.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy is a partner of the **Secrets of the Solent** project, which is being led by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. This Heritage Fund initiative will connect local people across the Solent to the wildlife that lives in, and depends on, our underwater habitats and the intertidal zone. The overall focus of the project is on sustainability and living within environmental limits.

MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

- Public awareness of the range and purpose of the national and international designations could be higher.
- There are many stakeholders across the Harbour, sometimes with competing interests.
- The aging resident population of Chichester Harbour and the increasing societal dependency on digital networks may result in instances of rural social isolation.
- The need to identify and engage with a new generation of volunteers.
- Public awareness of the names of wildlife, both plants and animals, could be higher, particularly amongst children and young people.

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS

- Bosham Association
- Chichester Harbour Conservancy
- Chichester Harbour Federation
- Chichester Harbour Trust
- Chichester Ship Canal Trust
- Friends of Chichester Harbour
- Friends of Maybush Copse
- Friends of Nore Barn Woods
- Individual Residents
- Itchenor Society
- Landowners
- Langstone Village Association
- Parish Councils
- Residents Associations
- Specialist Interest Groups
- The Wildlife Trusts

Actions to be taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy:

- 12.1 To prepare and publish the annual Harbour News & guide and guided walks and Activities programme, and to consider merging these documents in the future and moving to electronic publications.
- 12.2 To deploy Volunteer Photographers to take photographs for use in the Conservancy's publications.
- 12.3 To deploy Leaflet Distributing volunteers to help circulate hard copies of Chichester Harbour Conservancy's publications.
- 12.4 To deliver a diverse annual guided walks and activities programme for people of all ages and abilities, ensuring that all engagement opportunities are linked to the AONB.
- 12.5 To deploy Volunteer Rangers (Activities) to help with the delivery of the activities programme and other volunteers to help with guided walks.
- 12.6 To continue to publish regular email newsletters to subscribers, featuring the latest news in the AONB.
- 12.7 To deliver outreach talks to local communities in and around the Harbour.
- 12.8 To raise awareness of the names of the most common wildlife found in the Harbour.
- 12.9 In partnership with the Friends of Chichester Harbour, to maintain the interpretation panels and information boards in a good state of repair.
- 12.10 To hold a Chichester Harbour Open Forum in 2021 to allow the public to directly feedback their views on its management to Chichester Harbour Conservancy.

Actions to be taken by other stakeholders:

- 12.11 In partnership with Chichester Harbour Trust, to manage sites in their ownership for the benefit of local people and wildlife and in keeping with the AONB designation (Maybush Copse, The Dell, etc.).
- 12.12 To manage other sites for the benefit of local people and wildlife and in keeping with the AONB designation (Nore Barn Woods, North Common, etc.).
- 12.13 To organise new stargazing events at the three Dark Sky Discovery Sites in Chichester Harbour.
- 12.14 To promote the availability of the two Sandcruiser beach wheelchairs at West Wittering Beach, both of which are free to hire.
- 12.15 To deliver the Secrets of the Solent project (Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust).



Policy 13 Prosperous Economy

Chichester Harbour will continue to be a place where marine businesses prosper. Everyday working practices respect the importance of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation and the range of other environmental and historic designations.



Chichester Harbour is a living, working landscape, and commercial activities, both past and present, have helped to shape its character. Many businesses support the Harbour's use as a recreational destination, with employment in boat building, services and visitor facilities. Over time the nature of the boat building and repair industry has changed with customer demands, but traditional methods are still used on wooden day boats, whilst yachts are repaired at a range of boatyards. Chichester Harbour supports many marine-related businesses, including marinas and sailing clubs, and collectively they provide jobs and volunteering opportunities and make a valuable contribution to the local economy."

The Valuing Chichester Harbour report of 2009 found that the total value of marine businesses and vessels was estimated to be £523 million. It was also estimated that Chichester Harbour attracts around 1.5 million visitors a year, supporting 50 tourism businesses. These include hotels, bed and breakfasts, caravan sites, pubs and restaurants, which all help to enhance the visitor experience. The Conservancy and its partners support sustainable tourism. This is when visitors make a positive impact on the economy, society and environment. Water-specific businesses, such as the water taxi, boat trips and boat training and hire, are targeted more specifically at those who come to enjoy the Harbour. The combined value of tourist-related activities was estimated at £44 million. Not all the businesses are tourism-focused or related directly to boating and yachting. Shops, offices and other commercial operations all provide services and employment to those who live and work within Chichester Harbour.

In the coming years, the Conservancy will update the Valuing Chichester Harbour report of 2009, so as to better understand the current contribution that Chichester Harbour makes to the economy.

Historically, oyster dredging, which operates during the winter months, has been the mainstay of the fishing industry of Chichester Harbour, together with small amounts of mullet and flounder. Generally, the oyster industry is relatively small, as is netting activity, with about half-a-dozen small (under 10 metres) vessels operating, increasing in number during the winter when a few boats from Selsey and the wider Solent join in the oyster dredging activity. In recognition of the decline in the native oyster fishery within the Harbour, a partnership known as the Chichester Harbour Oyster Partnership Initiative (CHOPI) was established in 2010. The members have worked together to develop an oyster recovery plan, that has included the creation of broodstock areas.

Amateur **anglers** fish during the year from the shore and boats, including charter boats, and Chichester Harbour is the only estuary in Sussex that is a designated nursery for sea bass. The following types of **fishing** activities are undertaken by vessels operating within Chichester Harbour: gill netting; cuttlefish trapping; oyster dredging; otter trawling; rod and line; drift netting; and whelk potting. In terms of value, the most important species landed in the Harbour are whelks, lobsters, cuttlefish, oysters and sole. However a diverse range of species is landed, including gurnard, grey and red mullet, sharks and rays.

MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES	PRINCIPAL PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government policy to find locations for housing development is an ongoing pressure. Sites traditionally used for marine business are increasingly being considered due to wider economic challenges. However, once a marine business is lost to housing, it is unlikely to return to marine use, thereby permanently changing the character of the area. • Chichester Harbour supports small scale commercial fishing, particularly for oysters. • Bait diggers do not always comply with the voluntary Code of Conduct which requires: the back-filling of holes for safety and to maintain the intertidal habitat; avoiding the disturbance of wildlife and marine heritage; refraining from digging around moorings, slipways, and sea walls; refraining from digging for commercial gain. • Whilst tourism continues to grow and support the local economy, Chichester Harbour is already seasonally congested at peak times and is therefore unlikely to cope with a greater volume of tourists. • A recognised shortage of parking spaces at Dell Quay, at Chidham, and at Bosham, resulting in traffic congestion and the informal parking of cars on verges. • Lack of apprenticeship opportunities in Chichester Harbour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chichester Chamber of Commerce • Chichester Harbour Conservancy • Chichester Harbour Federation • Chichester Harbour Oyster Partnership Initiative (CHOPI) • Emsworth Business Association • Environment Agency • Hampshire Chamber of Commerce • Individual Businesses • Local Authorities • Marine Management Organisation (MMO) • Natural England • Southern IFCA • Sussex IFCA • Universities • Visit Chichester • Visit Hampshire

Actions to be taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy:

- 13.1 To prepare and publish a new Valuing Chichester Harbour report.
- 13.2 To maintain facilities for small commercial fishing.
- 13.3 To support sustainable tourism, with new opportunities for visitor giving schemes, whereby new income generated is invested directly back into local biodiversity conservation measures.

- 13.4 To upgrade properties owned by Chichester Harbour Conservancy so that they are more environmentally efficient.
- 13.5 To explore the possibilities for new corporate sponsorships in Chichester Harbour.
- 13.6 To investigate opportunities to improve and enhance the visitor welcome in West Itchenor, including refurbishing the Harbour Office and facilities.
- 13.7 To hold Conservancy Open Days to raise awareness of the work of Chichester Harbour Conservancy.
- 13.8 To investigate the opportunity for a new car park at Dell Quay, as well as new bicycle hire schemes.
- 13.9 To introduce and facilitate corporate days out in Chichester Harbour.
- 13.10 To investigate the opportunity for a stronger Chichester Harbour Conservancy presence in Emsworth.
- 13.11 To continue to support the CHOPI.

Actions to be taken by other stakeholders:

- 13.11 To utilise the planning system to maintain the boat building heritage of Chichester Harbour (Local Planning Authorities).
- 13.12 To publicise the Bait Digging Code of Conduct to encourage greater compliance.
- 13.13 To determine fish stocks and harvesting rates.
- 13.14 To ensure observance of fishery regulations within the Harbour and enforce any breaches that take place (Sussex IFCA, Southern IFCA, Environment Agency, Marine Management Organisation etc.).
- 13.15 To support local business and tourism associations.
- 13.16 To investigate the possibility for a Chichester Harbour Leisure Card, thereby joining-up local tourism attractions to help develop the visitor economy.
- 13.17 To prepare and publish a new Destination Management Plan for Chichester Harbour.
- 13.18 To encourage the take-up of new apprenticeships, particularly with marine enterprises.

Policy 14 Marine Litter Pollution

Global marine litter pollution has increased substantially in recent years, with a high level of public awareness. Chichester Harbour will continue to be part of the solution by maintaining a coastline befitting an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Chichester Harbour is a wonderful place to enjoy walking, cycling, bird watching, taking photographs and drawing or painting the idyllic views. The countryside is also highly important to the sailing community, since the natural landscape is the backdrop of the waters in which they sail. There are many reasons why it is so well-liked. For instance, you can find the sights, sounds and smells of nature here, whether watching the Harbour Seals, listening to bird song or simply breathing in the fresh coastal air that is simply not possible in our urban centres. For others, it is nice to be somewhere that is largely undeveloped. However, with the popularity of Chichester Harbour as a destination, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty suffers from instances of marine litter pollution, whether washed in to the Harbour from outside sources or irresponsibly and illegally dropped directly within the Harbour itself.

According to the Marine Conservation Society, litter has increased by 135% since 1994, with plastics increasing by 180%. **Around 70% of beach litter is made of plastic, including plastic straws and cutlery and polystyrene.** Over time, one plastic bottle, for example, can break down into hundreds of tiny pieces, which can be mistaken for food by wildlife, or which can remain in the water or the intertidal zone indefinitely. Other types of common marine litter pollution include: cans, bottles, cartons, chewing gum, food wrappers (e.g. crisp packets), boxes, drinks containers, paper napkins, sandwich cartons, salt sachets, baby wipes, nappies and general household waste.

In 1986, Chichester Harbour Conservancy had the foresight to establish a group of 32 new, willing volunteers called 'Harbour Watch'. The shoreline was divided into sections and each 'Harbour Watcher' would patrol his or her section at regular intervals to collect and safely dispose of any rubbish that had been washed-up. Over 30 years later in 2019, the scheme is still going strong, with an influx of new volunteers replacing those that have stepped down. Today, they are now called Volunteer Rangers (Harbour Watch), which is a more recognisable role title in the field of conservation, and they work in partnership with the Friends of Chichester Harbour.

The 2017 BBC documentary, *Blue Planet II*, successfully raised national awareness of the problem of marine litter pollution. Since then, many local businesses and sailing clubs have committed to eliminating single-use plastics, and other initiatives, like Final Straw Solent, are helping to maintain the level of support and encourage a positive approach to waste. Chichester Harbour Conservancy has also sponsored some '2 Minute Beach Clean A-Boards' to encourage regular walkers to undertake ad-hoc litter picking at their own convenience.



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES	PRINCIPAL PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global marine litter pollution has increased substantially in recent years. • Plastic pollution, and in particular microplastics, are mistaken for prey by many marine animals and seabirds and thereby enter the food chain. • Abandoned fishing nets can be harmful to wildlife, damaging habitats and the visual beauty of the countryside. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chichester Harbour Conservancy • Chichester Harbour Federation • Environment Agency • Final Straw Solent • Friends of Chichester Harbour • Individual Residents • Landowners • Local Authorities • Marine Conservation Society • National Trust • Natural England • Parish Councils • Residents Associations • Solent Forum • Sussex IFCA • Sussex Marine & Coastal Forum • Universities

Actions to be taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy:

- 14.1 In partnership with the Friends of Chichester Harbour, to deploy Volunteer Rangers (Harbour Watch) to help collect and report the number of bags of litter picked-up, and any unusual finds.
- 14.2 In partnership with Sussex IFCA, to encourage best practice with fishing, promoting the safe and appropriate disposal of nets and equipment.
- 14.3 To collect and safely dispose of fishing equipment that is washed-up in Chichester Harbour.
- 14.4 To support academic research into the prevalence and effect of microplastics.



Actions to be taken by other stakeholders:

- 14.5 To encourage people to reduce waste and promote recycling.
- 14.6 To raise awareness of the issue of plastic pollution in Chichester Harbour.
- 14.7 To not release balloons, Chinese lanterns or other similar items which will eventually return to the Harbour as litter.
- 14.8 To work towards eliminating single-use plastics.
- 14.9 In partnership with Local Authorities, to remove fly tipping as quickly and effectively as possible.

Policy 15 Historic Environment and Heritage Assets

The landscape of Chichester Harbour reflects its history. The historic environment and heritage assets of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will continue to be conserved and enhanced in keeping with its inherent value, with increased opportunities to access, better understand and appreciate the past.

In many ways the landscape of Chichester Harbour reflects its history, with archaeological finds showing how the estuary was used thousands of years ago. Today, **historic features are a reminder of our past**, part of the landscape, and landmarks in their own right. They contribute to economic development as attractive features that are part of the community and a destination for tourism. There are many sites in and around Chichester Harbour registered on the Historic Environment Record.

There is a wealth of evidence of human use and habitation dating back to prehistoric times. The Harbour's evolution has been shaped by glacial processes and during the last interglacial period it was part of an active shoreline. By the Mesolithic period (12,000-4,000 BC) the coast was 40 kilometres away and the landscape was made-up of valleys where people visited to hunt and fish. Finds of worked flints suggested the Harbour was important for people through the Neolithic period and into the Bronze Age. By the Iron Age, the Harbour was an important area for salt working, and a hillfort was constructed at Tournerbury, on Hayling Island.



Chichester Harbour was one landing point for the Claudian arrival of AD43 in Rome's conquest of Britain. Discoveries at the site of a Romano-British villa in Warblington, and earlier findings at Fishbourne, shows there was trade with the Roman Empire before the invasion. In later years, legend has it that King Canute ordered the waves to go back from Bosham, and the same village also featured on the Bayeux Tapestry. Meanwhile, underneath Bosham is an ancient mill-stream that once served the medieval core of this settlement. Today, it is a valuable ecological corridor.

Many of the Chichester Harbour churches have stood for hundreds of years, including: St Peter and St Paul's Church, West Wittering; St Nicholas' Church, West Itchenor; St James' Church, Birdham; St Peter's and St Mary's Church, Fishbourne; Holy Trinity Church, Bosham; St. Mary's Church, Chidham; St Nicholas' Church, Thorney Island; St Thomas' Church, Warblington; and St Mary's Church, Hayling Island.

Several of the picturesque harbourside villages have their roots in the medieval period, as fishing, oyster farming and salt working flourished. Industry thrived in the post-medieval period with important features remaining in the landscape including mills, brick working sites, salterns and historic field systems.

The Friends of Chichester Harbour, in partnership with Emsworth Yacht Harbour, operate oysterboat *Terror*. *Terror* was originally built by Foster's Boatyard in Emsworth in about 1890, to support the 20 or so large ketches that dredged for oysters. Boats like *Terror*, (known as lighters) would collect the catch from the larger oyster merchants' vessels and transport them back to the shore. From there the oysters went straight to the busy fish markets in London, or they were stored in lays on the foreshore. About 100,000 oysters were shipped to the London markets each week.

Thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2006, *Terror* was lovingly restored at Dolphin Quay Boatyard in Emsworth over a two-year period. She was re-launched as a passenger vessel and can give up to six participants a memorable close-to-the-water experience as she sails around the Harbour.

Chichester Harbour had an important role in the defence of Britain during the Second World War, with many surviving features including airfields, pillboxes, and gun emplacements, particularly concentrated on Thorney Island, but with additional features on Hayling Island.

This rich heritage reflects the processes, both natural and historic, that have created the character of the landscape and contributed to the unique sense of place. Although not explicitly referred to as an AONB purpose, the historic environment and heritage assets are a key factor of the landscape.



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES	PRINCIPAL PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring the condition of Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments. • Undertaking practical conservation works at historic sites. • Raising the profile of the importance of the historic environment. • Extending the archaeologically-based Condition Assessment programme to the Grade 2 listed buildings within the AONB. • Climate change and sea level rise are revealing and destroying assets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chichester and District Archaeology Society • Chichester Harbour Conservancy • Chichester Harbour Federation • Chichester Harbour Heritage Partnership • Chichester Ship Canal Trust • Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network (CITIZAN) • Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust • Emsworth Museum • Fishbourne Roman Palace • Friends of Chichester Harbour • Historic England • Local Authorities • Museum of London Archaeology • National Lottery's Heritage Fund • Universities

Actions to be taken by Chichester Harbour Conservancy:

- 15.1 To continue to provide secretarial support for the Chichester Harbour Heritage Partnership
- 15.2 To continue to support the Friends of Chichester Harbour with the operation of oysterboat *Terror*.
- 15.3 To support and manage Chichester and District Archaeology Society Conservation Work Parties to conserve Second World War pillboxes and gun emplacements on

Thorney Island.

Actions to be taken by other stakeholders:

- 15.4 To continue to monitor the condition of Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments and encourage general public participation to update their condition on Historic England's List.
- 15.5 To continue with archaeological fieldwork within Chichester Harbour, subject to properly defined research objectives and with reference to the relevant museum's collection development policy.
- 15.6 To publicise archaeological sites and finds of interest and arrange for displays in local museums including Emsworth Museum and Fishbourne Roman Palace.
- 15.7 To utilise archaeological discoveries from the surrounding area as the basis to search for similar discoveries within the AONB – for example, the recent Bronze Age discoveries at Medmerry and in the South Downs National Park suggest there should be more evidence of Bronze Age activity within Chichester Harbour.
- 15.8 To react to changes in the physiographical appearance of Chichester Harbour to undertake new surveys in the changed ground.
- 15.9 To utilise new publicly available data such as Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) or aerial photography to generate new surveys of areas where new archaeology might be discovered.
- 15.10 To search for the probable Roman site on Thorney Island as evidenced by the discoveries displayed in St Nicholas' Church. This search will need to be prompted by new evidence.
- 15.11 To devise and implement a robust Condition Assessment Programme for monitoring Heritage at Risk in the AONB.
- 15.12 To develop relationships with local historical societies to enable a team of volunteers to be recruited to carry out a Grade 2 listed buildings monitoring programme.
- 15.13 To encourage the publication of articles in local and national journals about heritage issues.
- 15.14 To increase the use of social media to engage people with the historic environment.
- 15.15 To keep the Historic Environment Record (HER) up-to-date.



Section 3

Chichester Harbour Planning Principles



Planning Considerations

In June 2000, Nick Raynsford (then Planning Minister), made a statement in the House of Commons confirming that AONBs are equivalent to National Parks in terms of their landscape quality, scenic beauty and planning. In planning terms, this meant that AONBs should be strongly protected. However, over 76% respondents surveyed by Chichester Harbour Conservancy in 2018 felt that development pressure was the single biggest threat to the future of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (source: Chichester Harbour Residents and Visitors Survey 2018). These threats include inappropriate and unauthorised developments, over intensive developments (especially on the fridge of the Harbour), and the trend towards the construction of excessively large replacement harbourside properties.

In order to help address this high level of concern, Chichester Harbour Conservancy developed 18 Planning Principles, designed to interpret and supplement the adopted development management policies of the relevant Local Planning Authority (LPA). These were prepared to promote and reinforce local distinctiveness in the AONB and offer those seeking planning permission greater certainty on which to make their decisions. It is anticipated that this greater clarity will strengthen relationships between the LPAs, developers, voluntary organisations and the general public which in turn will strengthen the delivery of the Management Plan, which is a material planning consideration.

The key objectives for the Planning Principles are to be seen from the perspective of the Conservancy's responsibilities, recognising that these are consistent with, and seek to interpret, adopted statutory land use policies as they relate to development in the AONB. 'Development' here is defined as constituting development under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended. The AONB is tightly regulated, and a range of permissions and consents may be required before a development can take place.

Planning law prescribes circumstances where consultation must take place between an LPA and certain organisations, prior to a decision being made on an application. The organisations in question are under a duty to respond to the LPA within a set deadline and must provide a substantive response to the application in question. The type and location of development will determine whether particular organisations or persons are consulted. For example, in Chichester Harbour, 'statutory consultees' include Hampshire County Council, West Sussex County Council, Natural England and the Environment Agency.

Page 451

Applications for Development	
Local Planning Authority: Planning Permission	The Local Planning Authority will advise on whether or not a planning application is required. They will consider the various impacts of proposals on the AONB.
Marine Management Organisation (MMO): Marine Licence	A marine licence must be obtained for all construction works below mean high water springs. The MMO will ensure that proposals adhere to the latest national marine planning policies.
Natural England: Consent	Natural England will consider the potential impacts of the proposal on the conservation designations.
Environment Agency: Flood Defence Consent	The Environment Agency will look to ensure that proposed works do not inadvertently increase flood risk, damage flood defences, or harm the environment, fisheries or wildlife.
Historic England: Listing Building Consent and Scheduled Monument Consent, and a Licensing Scheme for Protected Wreck Sites	Historic England is tasked with protecting the historical environment of England by preserving and listing historic buildings, ancient monuments and advising central and local government.
Chichester Harbour Conservancy: Works Licence	Under the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act of 1971, the Conservancy has the right to veto any works in the Harbour below mean high water springs, even if all the other permissions and consents are in place.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy is defined as a 'non-statutory consultee' in planning law. LPAs engage with non-statutory consultees to identify clearly the types of developments within the local area in which they have an interest, so that any formal consultation can be directed appropriately, and unnecessary consultation avoided. In the coming years, Chichester Harbour Conservancy will lobby Government to become a 'statutory consultee'. If successful, this means there will be legal requirement for the LPAs to consult with the Conservancy on all applications inside the AONB, with an additional formal duty placed on the Conservancy to respond. Chichester Harbour Conservancy also aspire to be recognised as a special case in the National Planning Policy Framework, like the Broads Authority, which also has similar purposes around conservation, recreation and navigation.

As a general principle of design in the environment, all proposals should be informed by a clear process of contextual analysis, understanding the site, its features and surroundings. More particularly within the AONB, this will include an understanding of where the finished development will be seen from in the wider landscape, whether from land or water, both within and adjacent to the AONB.

Overall, it is the natural landscape and trees/vegetation which should predominate in rural/coastal locations. Theoretical design principles should be used to prepare design and access statements to support planning applications. Where proposed development is likely to have an adverse impact either on landscape character or visual amenity, a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) should also be provided.

The Chichester Harbour Landscape Character Assessment should be referenced by developers when formulating proposals. As part of making their Local Plans, Havant Borough Council and Chichester District Council commissioned their own landscape capacity/sensitivity studies to help determine where new development might most appropriately be accommodated.

Those seeking to develop can seek a legal determination as to whether the development they wish to carry out requires planning permission. This is called a Certificate of Lawfulness for Proposed Development.

Enforcement

Where appropriate, the Conservancy will set-out its view as to why it may be expedient for the LPA to take planning enforcement action to remedy any actual or anticipated breach of planning control and (where appropriate) will offer support for the LPA case should an Appeal be lodged against any formal Notice being served to remedy identified breach(es).

The Conservancy will, where appropriate, assist the relevant LPA with evidence of harm to the AONB to either (or both) assist in the LPA's assessment as to the expediency (or other relevant threshold or requirement) of formal enforcement action being taken in relation to suspected or anticipated breaches of planning controls within or affecting the AONB.

Planning enforcement can be a long and drawn out process and those seeking to develop in the AONB will always be encouraged to seek professional guidance from a competent source at the earliest opportunity. The Conservancy, like its partner LPAs and some other government agencies, offers a pre-application consultation service.



PP01

Chichester Harbour as a Protected Area

Chichester Harbour is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with the statutory primary purpose to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. The Conservancy shall give great weight to the protection of the landscape, the conservation of nature and the special qualities of Chichester Harbour, as defined in the AONB Management Plan and Landscape Character Assessment. The Conservancy will oppose any application that, in its opinion, is a major change or will cause material damage to the AONB or which will constitute unsustainable development.

As the Statutory Harbour Authority, Chichester Harbour Conservancy is also responsible for navigation. Planning decisions which affect navigation should give great weight to safety considerations as defined in the Management Plan and the Port Marine Safety Code.

Reasoned justification

Chichester Harbour was designated as an AONB in 1964 and it is classified as a Category V Protected Area by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act of 1971 is the founding legislation for the amalgamation of the AONB Unit and the statutory Harbour Authority.

A number of international, European, national, regional and local designations affect the AONB and are detailed in Section 1. Development proposals which are likely to erode habitat, be prejudicial to wildlife, or damage the historic environment, are unlikely to receive the support of the Conservancy.

The Conservancy will normally be consulted by Natural England in relation to the necessity for an Appropriate Assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/490) and by Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in undertaking of a screening opinion to establish whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required for any proposed development affecting the AONB. In these situations the Conservancy will assess the potential impacts based on its own data and guidance and will seek to ensure there will be no harm to the designated sites for nature conservation.

Where trees that add special interest, or areas of woodland, are identified as being under threat, the Conservancy will seek a Tree Preservation Order where appropriate. It is recognised that protection for trees and hedgerows will, at times, be required at short notice.

The presence of protected species on a site is a material consideration in planning terms. The extent of protected species and how they may be affected by any proposed development should be assessed prior to development being permitted – especially where any demolition or adjustment to a roof void forms part of the proposals.

Areas around existing designated sites can also be part of an overall habitat network as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG). Where development affects these areas or the integrity of a designated site the Conservancy is likely to raise an objection to the proposals.

The impact of development within the AONB on designated sites for nature conservation is a key issue and the Conservancy seeks to ensure that no harm to designated sites occurs through the development process. Designated sites are an important part of the ecology and character of the AONB and the legislation contained in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, all provide a stringent legislative framework to protect the relevant area. The Conservancy will comment on all planning proposals that appear to affect wildlife and will seek to inform the planning process with comments and input based on its own data and survey work.

The Conservancy will seek to ensure that all relevant guidance is followed, including Natural England's standing instructions for protected species (or groups of species).

Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), commonly known as S106 agreements, are a mechanism which make a development proposal acceptable in planning terms, that would not otherwise be acceptable. They are focused on site specific mitigation of the impact of development. The Conservancy will seek the cooperation of the LPAs where a S106 agreement is proposed.

The Conservancy will seek the cooperation of the LPAs in obtaining the necessary legal agreements to protect locations affected by development and to achieve appropriate and proportionate planning gains. Developers should be aware that LPAs may have adopted a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) schedule of charges and refer to that. Examples include:

- Improvements in access to the countryside, including access-for-all.
- Sympathetic management of land of conservation value, excluding it from further pressure.
- Improvements to the general infrastructure, which encourage acceptable levels of use.

The coastal margin, in particular the intertidal area of the AONB, is likely to be sensitive to all forms of new development.

It is highly unlikely that any sort of major development will be appropriate in the AONB unless the relevant tests of the NPPF are met. Major development which does not meet these tests will not be supported by the Conservancy. Whether something is 'major' development in this context is a matter for the local decision maker to take and not the simple definition set out in Article 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (SI 2015/595).

Although it is acknowledged that a design and access statement is not essential for an application to be valid, the Conservancy will always welcome a short written statement to support any planning application. This can usefully set out the purpose behind the application and what the applicant is trying to achieve.

The special qualities of the AONB are detailed in Section 1 of the Management Plan and are described in the Landscape Character Assessment, which divides the protected landscape into different character areas.

A number of Neighbourhood Plans are being developed to reflect local community aspirations for housing allocations and other development. Neighbourhood Plans are part of the statutory development plan for each LPA.

Village Design Statements, also published by local communities within the AONB, provide detailed guidance on respecting local identity, ensuring development is harmonious within its setting and making a positive contribution to the local environment. Current adopted Village Design Statements within the AONB are: Bosham (2011); Emsworth (2008); Langstone (2008); Northney and Tye (2008); West Wittering (2006); and West Itchenor (2012).

The significance and amenity value of trees will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Wherever possible, the Conservancy will encourage the use of native tree and shrub species typical of the AONB. Conservation Area Character Appraisals and associated Management Plans provide detailed guidance for Conservation Areas in around the AONB.

PP01 is over-riding and must be satisfied at all times. The rest of the Principles, outlined in PP02-PP18, that apply to specific types of planning application, shall be deemed to incorporate the terms of PP01.

PP02

Safeguarding Marine Enterprise

The Conservancy will support the retention and continued development of marine business uses and only support a change of use if the applicant can demonstrate that the site is not fit-for-purpose for a marine-related business and that any marine-related business use is unviable. In all cases, proposals should not have an adverse impact on the landscape and nature conservation interests of the AONB.

Applicants should take the following sequential approach and refer to 'Requirements of Marketing' below:

1. The Conservancy will look to see evidence of the site having been marketed for marine-related business use for at least 12 months prior to a planning application being submitted, as a whole or with the option to create smaller work units; and
2. If this marketing is unsuccessful, the site should be marketed for at least a further 6 months as a mix of marine-related business use and/or other appropriate commercial/employment uses which are capable of reversion to marine-related use in the future (such as the retention of features of the building which would allow boats to be easily taken into and out of the building and unimpeded access to tidal waters); and
3. Only if both of the above steps are unsuccessful, will other non-employment land related uses be considered. In these instances, marina style residential uses with dedicated access to the water and marine-related or other commercial/employment use(s) requiring planning permission may be acceptable, provided:
 - The applicant has clearly demonstrated with evidence that any non-employment use element is necessary to make the scheme viable in financial terms; and
 - Any proposed non-marine-related employment use retains easy access to the water and features of the building which allow boats to be easily taken into and out of the converted buildings; and
 - The marine-related or other appropriate commercial/employment use(s) are not so marginalised within the redevelopment so as to ultimately affect their viability in the long-term (a sufficiently detailed Business Plan should be provided to help demonstrate this); and
 - It can be demonstrated that the proposed uses are compatible with each other (so as to not constrain any retained business use in the future) and that dedicated access is retained to tidal waters; and
 - Adequate facilities are maintained to support the established marine use.

Reasoned justification

The Conservancy understands that the prosperity of marine businesses is cyclical. Once sites are lost from marine-related use, it is extremely unlikely that they will be replaced by new ones. It is therefore vital that sufficient marine site capacity is retained for the long term viability of the Harbour's marine infrastructure and the boats and businesses that depend on them. The Conservancy is sympathetic to applications for alternative industrial uses where these do not harm the AONB and where reversion to marine industrial use is possible.

In order to demonstrate that development would not have an adverse impact in the AONB, applicants should refer to the relevant Local Plan policies, the Landscape Character Assessment, the Management Plan, and if applicable, the Chichester Harbour AONB Supplementary Planning Document for further guidance.

Applications should include sufficient information to demonstrate that there would be no adverse impact on the landscape character or visual amenity of the AONB, which may include harbour-scene drawings, photo-montages and comparative drawings with the existing site.

Where no operational development is proposed but the change of use proposed would imply the need for external storage, the Conservancy will be concerned as to the impact of this in the landscape and may ask the determining LPA to impose planning conditions to restrict this or alternatively provide for its screening if appropriate.

Applicants are encouraged to seek preapplication advice from both Natural England and the Conservancy, particularly where proposals involve works to the shoreline or new/altered intertidal structures and shoreline defences. This may require a range of consents, including a 'Works Licence' from the Conservancy and consent from the Marine Management Organisation. Compensation for any net loss of intertidal habitat in the Special Area of Conservation may also be necessary.

Requirements of marketing

As well as wishing to see marine enterprises flourish in the AONB there is also a cultural identity dimension to this in terms of employment skills with a strong historic connection to the Harbour, which positively contribute to the AONB's distinctiveness.

Applicants should provide evidence that the site has been marketed for at least 12 months, including:

- Confirmation by an appropriate marketing agent, on headed company paper, that the premises were marketed for the required length of time.
- Dated photographs of marketing board/s on the premises, in terms of their size, scale, location and number during the marketing period.
- An enquiry log, detailing the dates and method of communication used and the issues raised by prospective tenants, which ultimately led to each enquiry not resulting in the letting of the property.
- A copy of all advertisements in the local, regional, national and international press and trade periodicals (should be at least one weeks' worth of advertisements per month, spread across each six month period of marketing).
- Evidence of marketing via the internet, by giving details of the website or websites used and the period of marketing via this medium.

Please also refer to the marketing guidance in the relevant Local Plan.

It is important that the marketing of the land and/or buildings should point out those factors lending their use for a marine related enterprise, for example unimpeded headroom for vehicular access, proximity to water for the ease of retrieving and launching boats and door height/width and internal headroom dimensions to allow prospective tenants/purchasers to quickly understand whether boats might easily be worked on and be transported on and off the site.

The Conservancy may take independent advice to ascertain whether the value of land or rents sought are competitive, compared with similar marine-related business premises and will expect a methodical and thorough marketing report.

The Conservancy is more likely to be convinced there is no interest in the property being occupied by a marine related enterprise if a full and concerted marketing campaign is undertaken, without successful sale or letting, prior to the lodging of a planning application for any materially different use and/or operational development.

Owners are encouraged to seek the advice of the LPA and Conservancy prior to the commencement of any marketing campaign to ascertain the marketing strategy and to discuss the alternative uses that the owner may wish to consider in terms of sales/letting particulars. The NPPF encourages pre-application stakeholder engagement, i.e. that the marketing plan is agreed with the LPA and the Conservancy at the outset.

Page 457



PP03

Replacement Dwellings and Domestic Householder Extensions

The Conservancy is unlikely to object to a replacement dwelling or extension to an existing dwelling provided the applicant can demonstrate that all of the following criteria have been addressed:

- The increase in size and/or mass does not exceed 50% of the footprint and 25% to the elevation silhouette of the dwelling as can be evidenced by previous planning applications; and
- The proposal does not increase the developed frontage of the waterside to an extent which detracts from the openness or rural character of the coastal landscape when seen from public vantage points (including public footpaths, the water, the foreshore, roads, views across the Harbour and open countryside); and
- The proposal is of a sympathetic design and materials which complement the landscape setting and any local vernacular; and
- The proposal does not diverge significantly from the spatial pattern of surrounding development and the spaces between buildings; and
- That any extension to an existing two-storey or chalet bungalow dwelling remains sub-ordinate to the original dwelling shape as can be evidenced by previous planning applications to extend the property or otherwise no taller than the height of the main roof ridge.

Reasoned justification

The Town and Country Planning Act of 1947, which came into effect a year later, is the foundation of modern town and country planning in the United Kingdom. The main statutes are the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, supported by the NPPF.

The pressure for the construction of more substantial dwellings through replacement or extension has become a dominant force in changing the landscape of the AONB. The need to future-proof such replacement dwellings or significant domestic extensions against flood risk can have an immediate impact to the increase in the silhouette of a building. The landscape quality and attractiveness of the area continues to fuel the demand for extending existing homes or creating much larger, grander replacements, particularly in waterside locations, which can be out of keeping with the landscape.

The Conservancy is aware that small scale incremental changes can have cumulative impacts on the AONB, and these small developments within a concentrated area can be seriously damaging to the rural character and natural beauty of the area. In response to the number of applications, often of unsympathetic designs and materials, Havant Borough Council and Chichester District Council, prepared and published a Joint Supplementary Planning Document for Chichester Harbour AONB. This encourages sympathetic, locally distinctive designs and materials which respond to their landscape setting, and provide advice on ways to reduce visual impacts, including by limiting increases in size and mass.

When considering a replacement dwelling or extension to an existing dwelling, where applicable, consideration must be given to the Neighbourhood Plan, Village Design Statement, and the Conservation Area Character Appraisal/Management Plan.

PP04

Creation of New Dwellings and Residential Institutions

The Conservancy is unlikely to object to any proposals for new dwellings and residential institutions affecting the AONB, where the applicant can demonstrate that all of the following criteria have been addressed:

- The proposed development is within existing settlement boundaries; and
- That sufficient headroom capacity exists in wastewater treatment works infrastructure to serve the development, or the applicant has devised adequate alternative on-site facilities and storage to allow controlled release into the public sewer; and
- Recreational disturbance is adequately and appropriately mitigated to the satisfaction of the Conservancy and in accordance with the relevant Local Plan policy or policies; and
- The NPPF statutory requirement for environmental net gains will be met

Under exceptional circumstances, the Conservancy may support proposed development outside the existing settlement boundaries, if it is expressly required to meet a local identified social and/or economic need.

Reasoned justification

Development should be sustainably located to allow occupants to fulfil most daily functions, without relying on the use of private motorised transport. Development that is outside of the defined settlement areas and is unsustainable may have a significant and long-lasting adverse impact upon the character and landscape of the AONB.

The Conservancy supports the prioritisation of development within the existing urban hierarchy, as set out in the relevant Local Plan. Whilst it is understood that the LPAs have approved some infill or replacement dwellings outside of these areas, the Conservancy will not normally support new dwellings or additional residential accommodation in these locations unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the development is vital for socio-economic reasons, providing essential affordable housing (in accordance with any local housing needs survey) and/or agricultural worker housing.

It is important that adequate waste water treatment infrastructure is in place to serve new dwellings or additional residential accommodation in the AONB. This will ensure that such infrastructure is not overwhelmed – especially in times of heavy precipitation – resulting in emergency discharge of waste water into the Harbour, with the resulting harm to people and nature that can result from contamination and poor water quality.

The Conservancy will request that LPAs impose occupancy planning conditions to agricultural worker dwellings, on the basis of it being essential for the agricultural worker to be present at their place of employment at all times.



PP05

**Package Treatment Plants,
Cesspits and Septic Tanks**

Applications for developments relying on anything other than connection to a public sewer should be supported by sufficient information to understand the potential implications for the Harbour. If a development involves a package treatment plant and/or a septic tank, the applicant must provide detailed information about how the proposed development will be drained and waste water dealt with.

The applicant must satisfy the Conservancy that the plant will be maintained in accordance with an agreed management plan for the life of the plant or until the development is connected to the public sewer, if sooner. The applicant will be expected to provide a covenant to support such undertaking to maintain the plant.

The Conservancy will object to any application where it is likely to have a significant and adverse impact on water quality in the immediate vicinity of the discharge, or the wider Harbour. New discharges into the Harbour should be avoided due to potential impacts on both water quality and the natural beauty of the AONB landscape.

Reasoned justification

Good water quality is fundamental for the overall health of Chichester Harbour. Water quality sustains ecological processes that support native fish and invertebrate populations, vegetation, wetlands and birdlife. In addition, many people rely on good water quality for recreational use.

Treated sewage discharges have a range of impacts; introducing bacteria and viruses, which affect the Harbour's oyster fishery and human health, particularly if cockles and clams are collected in the vicinity. Nitrates add to the levels of weed growth, with detrimental impacts for habitats and species. The Harbour is failing to meet environmental standards due to excessive nitrates. These effects are exacerbated if the plant is not well maintained.

Where water quality has the potential to be a significant planning concern, an applicant should explain how the proposed development would affect the Harbour and how to mitigate the impacts. The applicant should provide sufficient information for the LPAs to be able to identify the likely impacts on water quality.

Most developments are expected to connect to a public sewer. Where this is not reasonably possible, the preferred solution should be a high quality sealed cesspit, where the contents are not discharged to the local environment. The least favoured options are a package treatment plant or a septic tank. Should either of these options still be considered the output must be treated on site through a suitable filtration system; a constructed reed bed system can be effective in some instances. Any cesspit, package treatment plant or septic tank will have to comply with building regulations and be suitably managed.

Applicants should look to use best available technology to reduce the environmental impact. Installation of a non-mains solution may require an environmental permit from the Environment Agency, which includes a robust management and maintenance plan. These must clearly set out responsibilities, means of operation, and a maintenance schedule to ensure that the plant complies with the permit conditions throughout its lifetime.

PP06

Conversion of Buildings Inside and Outside of Defined Settlements

The Conservancy is unlikely to object to the conversion of buildings inside and outside of defined settlements to an alternative use provided it is demonstrated that:

- Where applicable, the building is no longer required for its original purpose; and
- A structural survey indicates that the building is structurally sound; and
- Protected species and habitats are not detrimentally affected (e.g. bats, owls, great crested newts, water voles and hay meadows); and
- An alternative employment or tourism use is first evaluated for the building and shown by the applicant to be unviable, before dwellings with Class C3 of the Town and Country Planning (Uses Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) are proposed; and
- If a Class C3 dwelling is the most viable use, allowing appropriate repair/refurbishment of the building, the

Conservancy will request occupation is restricted to those needing a countryside location owing to their employment and/or on the basis of a rural exception site to provide affordable housing; and

- The design of any alterations and materials used are sympathetic to the character of the existing building and its rural location.

The Conservancy is likely to oppose proposals whereby a building conversion and its subsequent usage will disturb current levels of tranquillity.

Where a dwelling is permitted within Class C3 of the aforementioned Order, the Conservancy will examine the extent of the residential curtilage proposed and may request that the LPA give consideration to the removal of permitted development rights under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) England Order 2015.

Reasoned justification

Permitted development rights have been introduced under the aforementioned General Permitted Development Order for the conversion of agricultural buildings.

Agriculture epitomises the landscape of the AONB and it is vital for both nature conservation interests and the rural economy. Applications for the conversion of redundant agricultural buildings, for an alternative use, must be supported by sound evidence justifying the need for the conversion. The LPA is also likely to take advice as to the overall viability of the agricultural unit.

The Conservancy supports sustainable forms of economic development that are appropriate to the character of the AONB and recognises that farmers must be able to adapt, evolve and diversify their business. Where conversion to holiday accommodation is proposed, an accompanying business plan for the venture should be submitted.

PP07

New/Extended Farm and Woodland Buildings

Chichester Harbour Conservancy will not normally object to new or extended farm or woodland buildings where the applicant has demonstrated the proposal is:

- **Necessary for agriculture or silviculture; and**
- **Sited away from visually exposed locations; and**
- **Sub-ordinate to the host building; and**
- **Where possible, grouped with other buildings; and**
- **Adjacent to mature planting and/or screened using native tree and shrub species; and**
- **In accordance with LPA guidance in terms of type, size, design and materials.**

Page 462

Reasoned justification

The AONB is dominated by arable production with 68% of the land under crops and 15 arable farms. 70% is Grade 1 (excellent) or Grade 2 (very good) agricultural land. Agriculture epitomises the landscape of the AONB and it is vital for both nature conservation interests and the rural economy. The land is a haven for wildlife, and in particular birds, as evidenced in the number of fields supporting dark-bellied brent geese and other waders, as recorded by the Conservancy and its partners. However, farming practices continue to change and the Conservancy is aware that it must take a flexible approach in response to agricultural requirements.

Whilst it is recognised that some agricultural development is permitted development, the Conservancy will seek to minimise the impact upon the landscape of agricultural structures, including in response to 'prior notification' applications. The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) England Order 2015 (as amended) sets out prior notification requirements to LPAs by those seeking to exercise their permitted development rights for certain defined agricultural purposes.

If the Conservancy believes it to be expedient to restrict permitted development because of the impact from agricultural permitted development on the AONB (or a particular area of the AONB), it will urge LPAs to seek an Article 4 direction either across the AONB, or within the affected sensitive landscape area(s).

Chichester District Council has published specific guidance on farm buildings, and Havant Borough Council has adopted an overarching Design Supplementary Planning Document, to assist developers, when designing their proposals. Chichester District Council recommend a darkish khaki or bluish grey appearance and a dark slate grey colour, such as B.S. colour 18B 25 or 27 or a Khaki B.S. 1 OB/27 as these have been found to be the most sympathetic colours where buildings will be viewed against trees. The Conservancy will encourage dark colours, like these, to ensure the building blends in to its landscape setting.

The Conservancy has concerns over the intrusiveness of horticultural buildings within the landscape with the often large expanses of glass or polytunnels visible at great distances as well as within the immediate landscape of the AONB.

PP08

New Tourist Accommodation

The Conservancy is likely to object to applications for new or extended caravan or tourism accommodation sites within or adjacent to the AONB, unless it can be demonstrated that there would be no harm from visual intrusion, noise, increased recreational activity or erosion of rural character.

The Conservancy is likely to object to any application for caravan rallies or other caravanning/camping-related activity unless it can be demonstrated that the location does not have a detrimental impact upon the AONB or nature conservation interests and it is for a duration or recurrence which is compatible with the rural character of the AONB.

Page 463

Reasoned justification

Permitted development rights exist to Members of the Camping and Caravanning Club to have up to 5 pitches for caravans within the curtilage of the Member's (residential) property and other rights relating to the temporary use of land also exist, under the General Permitted Development Order.

Planning permission for tented accommodation is required where the AONB falls within Chichester District under an Article 4 Direction.

Caravan parks containing transportable but largely static mobile homes are well-established in the AONB, as a result of the growth in countryside tourism during the 1960s and 1970s. With changing industry trends, it is unlikely that new proposals of this nature will come forward. Nevertheless, the Conservancy will carefully consider any such proposals, given the impact on the landscape and the visual prominence that these developments can have. More bespoke forms of accommodation, such as pre-fabricated lodges or the conversion of existing buildings, have added self-catering tourist accommodation to the market place.

The Conservancy will look to persuade the LPA to impose suitable planning conditions to ensure that the accommodation created cannot be occupied the whole year round and thus is genuinely available to those who wish to stay and explore the AONB, rather than those who would treat such accommodation as a second home or main home. Where such accommodation would contain all the necessary amenities to enable day-to-day living, the Conservancy would not wish to see such accommodation becoming permanent general purpose housing, which is not supported outside of the defined settlement boundaries.

It may be necessary for some forms of tourism development to be accompanied by an Appropriate Assessment under the 2010 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, which may only be supportable where appropriate and adequate mitigation can be offered.

PP09 Dark Skies

The Conservancy is likely to support lighting proposals that reduce the adverse impact of artificial light in Chichester Harbour. The Institution of Lighting Professionals published best practice guidance in 2011.

Lighting proposals that are adjacent to or impact on areas of nature conservation will only be supported in exceptional circumstances. A statement outlining where the light will shine; when the light will shine; how much light will shine; the possible ecological impact and a series of mitigation measures, if appropriate, should accompany a planning application.

The Conservancy is unlikely to object to the lighting element of applications for prior approval or planning permission within and adjacent to the AONB, where the application includes evidence to demonstrate the following:

- The lighting proposals are the minimum needed for security and/or working purposes; and
- Any obtrusive light from glare or light trespass is an acceptable level; and
- Light beams will not be pointed out of windows; and
- Security lights are fitted with passive infra-red detectors (PIRs) and/or timing devices so as to minimise nuisance to neighbours and are set so that they are not triggered by traffic or pedestrians passing outside the property or premises; and
- Overall compliance with the published best practice guidance from the Institution of Lighting Professionals.

The Conservancy will object to any proposed development that includes smooth, reflective building materials, including large horizontal expanses of glass, particularly near the edge of the water, as this has potential to change natural light and to create polarised light pollution affecting wildlife.

Reasoned justification

The night sky is part of the scenic beauty of the AONB and should be conserved and enhanced. Light pollution is the light that is wasted upwards and reflects off the atmosphere, causing a visible night time blanket. According to the Campaign to Protect Rural England, Chichester Harbour has the third highest level of light pollution across all of England's

34 AONBs (as of 2016). Light pollution is a problem for various reasons, including energy wastage, detrimental effects on human health and psychology, erosion of tranquillity and disruption of ecosystems.

Obtrusive light is generally a consequence of poorly designed or insensitive lighting schemes. The three main problems associated with obtrusive light are:

- Sky glow - the orange glow seen around urban areas caused by a scattering of artificial light by dust particles and water droplets in the sky;
- Glare - the uncomfortable brightness of a light source when viewed against a darker background; and
- Light trespass - light spilling beyond the boundary of the property on which a light is located.

Each of the three types presents very different problems for the general public and for the environment as a whole.

Sky glow is the result of wasteful and ill-directed lighting and reduces the ability of people to see the natural night sky. This is a problem in rural locations. Artificial lighting can destroy local character by introducing a suburban feel into rural areas.

Glare and insensitive lighting can have serious implications for motorists who may become distracted or blinded by glaring lights spilling out on to the highway. Bright or inappropriate lighting in the countryside can also have severe ecological implications.

Obtrusive light in rural locations can affect the natural diurnal rhythms amongst a wide range of animals and plants. Light trespass is a common problem and can intrude on the residential amenity in both urban and rural settings causing stress and anxiety for people affected. In addition to these specific problems, obtrusive light represents a waste of energy, resources and money.

The Institution of Lighting Professionals has published guidance on acceptable levels of illumination for specific environmental zones, which relate broadly to the rural areas. All new developments should be designed so as to adhere to these best practice guidelines.



PP10 Shoreline Defences

The Conservancy has a hierarchy of preferred approaches to shoreline defences, as detailed in the Sustainable Shorelines: General Guidance document. The Conservancy is unlikely to object to proposals that entail:

- **Removing and not replacing existing defences; or**
- **Managed realignment, where appropriate; or**
- **Adaptive management, where appropriate.**

In locations where existing defences are present, the Conservancy is unlikely to object to a ‘like-for-like’ replacement providing that the applicant demonstrates that the defences are still required. The Conservancy prefers the use of materials that naturally degrade (i.e. timber rather than rock or concrete).

The Conservancy is likely to object to the installation of new, strengthened, or improved defences if they will have an adverse impact on habitats, species or safety of navigation.

Reasoned justification

Chichester Harbour covers 75 square kilometres and 86 kilometres of shoreline. The natural shoreline has a wooden fringe of coastal oaks with extensive saltmarshes, mudflats and sub-tidal channels. Approximately 41% of the Harbour is fully submerged at high tide and around two-thirds of the Harbour has shoreline defences.

Strategic guidelines for Chichester Harbour are outlined in the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan (2010) and at a local level through the Chichester Harbour Sustainable Shorelines: General Guidance document. The Environment Agency also published Estuary Edges: Ecological Design Advice (2013), which provides guidance on making a positive contribution towards estuary management. The Conservancy’s preferred shoreline defence is a soft approach using natural vegetation that is sympathetic to the landscape character and visual amenity of the AONB.

The choice of shoreline defence will depend on the existing and adjacent defences, the degree of exposure to wave action, the potential impact on the local environment, and any special requirements relating to access, amenity, etc.

The shoreline defences in the Harbour are constructed with varying designs and materials. Many have degraded over time and will require repair or enhancement to keep in line with sea level rise in the future. Where works on existing shoreline defences are modest in scale or constitute ‘like for like’ repairs, these are likely to be supported by the Conservancy as they are unlikely to have an adverse effect on the adjacent habitats or a harmful visual impact.

Larger-scale works are likely to have greater landscape and nature conservation impacts. The Conservancy will require justification for the works and details of how landscape and nature conservation impacts will be addressed, avoided or compensated for. The Conservancy will also seek the opportunity to replace an existing defence with natural solutions.

The Conservancy will also need to consider the potential impacts of any shoreline defence works on navigation within the Harbour, both from direct impacts and those arising from any change in hydro-dynamics and sediment movement. Where shoreline defences do not currently or historically exist, the Conservancy is unlikely to support an application for new defences because of the landscape character, visual amenity and nature conservation impacts.

In order to address the gradual loss of intertidal habitats over time as sea levels rise (known as ‘coastal squeeze’), the Conservancy is likely to support appropriate managed realignment sites as a preference to maintaining existing coastal defences. Any such scheme should also adequately address the outer defences, which should not just be abandoned and left to degrade to the detriment of the landscape and nature conservation interests.

PP11

Intertidal Structures

Planning applications for intertidal structures will be assessed for their impact on the visual land/seascape, nature conservation and navigational safety.

The Conservancy is unlikely to object to 'like-for-like' replacements, unless the existing structure:

- Is unauthorised and is either:
 - a) The subject of current enforcement action; or
 - b) In the Conservancy's view, should be the subject of enforcement action; or
- Is dilapidated or collapsed and the applicant is unable to evidence its use in the last 10 years.

If alterations are proposed to an intertidal structure that would materially affect its appearance, the Conservancy is unlikely to object provided the silhouette/footprint of the structure does not materially increase and materials with dark/muted/matte colour finishes are proposed.

The Conservancy will only support new or enlarged intertidal structures where:

- It is demonstrated they are for essential public use or it is demonstrated the development is necessary to ensure the continued viability of a marine related enterprise; and
- Any nature conservation impact can be mitigated; and
- There is no adverse land/seascape or visual amenity impact; and
- Safety of navigation is maintained.

Reasoned justification

The Harbour is designated as internationally important for nature conservation and the 2010 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations require any proposals likely to have a significant effect on the designated site to be assessed by the competent authority. Natural England will assess whether any proposed development within the intertidal area will have any relevant effect on the habitats and species of interest. In all cases, applicants should discuss their proposals with Natural England, the LPA and the Conservancy to ensure that all relevant issues and consents are identified and applied for.

All proposals below mean-high-water springs will require a Works Licence from the Conservancy. Applications for both planning permission and a Works Licence should be accompanied by a detailed method statement, which outlines the construction process and how adverse impacts on the designated sites will be avoided.

In some instances an Appropriate Assessment will be required to more fully assess the potential impacts before the LPA, Natural England and the Conservancy can determine whether the development is acceptable and if so what conditions may be necessary. A licence will also be required from the Marine Management Organisation and in some cases a licence or environmental permit from the Environment Agency.

Where a significant impact on the designated sites would arise (for example, from an increase in footprint/shading as a result of the proposed structure), this will need to be compensated for to ensure that there is no net loss of intertidal habitat.

Where it has been demonstrated that a new intertidal structure is essential for public use, adequate compensation will need to be provided to offset any impacts on nature conservation interests from the introduction of a new structure. The application will also need to demonstrate that there are no adverse impacts on the landscape character or visual amenity of the AONB or the safety of navigation. Where a new structure is only for private use, the Conservancy is highly likely to object to such a structure because of the likely significant impacts upon the landscape character and visual amenity of the AONB and the impact on nature conservation interests. There are also likely to be impacts upon navigational safety.

Examples of compensation include the removal of equivalent existing structures or material from the intertidal area, the provision of additional intertidal habitat elsewhere, and the surrendering of existing swinging moorings or other boat storage facilities.

Where repairs are contemplated to an existing intertidal structure, advice should be sought from the LPA as to the need for planning permission for such work. The LPA may invite an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness of proposed development. In all cases, supplying the LPA with photographs and drawings of the existing structure and a detailed written schedule of the work contemplated will speed-up this process.

Significant elevational changes to existing intertidal structures are unlikely to be supported by the Conservancy - (unless they are essential for public or commercial use and any impacts can be adequately mitigated) - because of their likely long-term impact on the AONB.

The cumulative impact of private householders installing new structures which extend into the Harbour could be seriously damaging to this highly sensitive coastal landscape as well as to the wildlife interest of the AONB and to the safety of navigation on the water. For these reasons, the Conservancy exercises a presumption against the introduction of new intertidal structures for private use.

In order to support marine-related businesses, the Conservancy will not apply this presumption where it can be demonstrated that the structure is essential for the success of the business and it would not have an adverse impact on the environment.

Depending upon the extent of collapse and dilapidation and the timeframe, this type of application can effectively mean the introduction of a new structure. As such, adequate compensation will need to be provided to offset any impacts on nature conservation interests, weighed against the habitat benefits the existing structure may offer. The applicant should demonstrate that the new structure would not have a detrimental impact upon the landscape character or visual amenity of the AONB or navigational safety.



PP12

Limits on Marinas and Moorings

The Conservancy is unlikely to object to a proposal for a new marina in the AONB if the applicant can demonstrate that all the existing marinas cannot be extended and any new berths are matched by a reduction in the same number of existing moorings.

The Conservancy is also unlikely to object to the extension of an existing marina in the AONB providing any new berths are matched by a reduction in the same number of existing moorings.

The Conservancy is likely to support proposals for the re-distribution of moorings to established marinas. It is unlikely to support proposals which result in a net increase in the number of moorings or marina berths.



Reasoned justification

Since the Conservancy was established in 1971 there has been a moratorium on the number of moorings and marina berths due to congestion in the Harbour at peak periods, which can be dangerous and may detract from the value of recreational experience. The Conservancy's vessel movement surveys show that a vessel passes the busiest transit every 6 seconds, over the peak half-hour period, and a further increase would lead to dangerous sailing conditions. Therefore, any schemes which propose to increase the number of marina berths will need to be offset by 'wasting' an appropriate number and type of moorings.

PP13

Public Access to the Water and New Launch-on-Demand Facilities

The Conservancy will object to any new facility which will provide a net gain in public access to the water for vessels or will increase the number of vessels using the Harbour.

The Conservancy will support proposals for storage buildings/ structures and areas of hard standing and associated means of enclosure related to the secure storage and operation of launch-on-demand boat services tied to new public access points to the water, where it can be demonstrated that:

- **Such facilities are required to enable the continued viability of an existing marine-related enterprise or established recreational club with existing public shoreline access to the Harbour. Where such facilities represent a consolidation of several separate areas and access points, and tidying-up a site, the Conservancy may be more favourably disposed to such proposals, if the re-instatement of abandoned areas offers an enhancement to the AONB overall; and**
- **Any increase in recreational activity would not harm nature conservation interests; and**
- **Any increase in recreational activity would not be detrimental to navigational safety.**

Reasoned justification

The Conservancy recognises that the Harbour is very close to capacity in terms of water-based recreational use, which can lead to issues of safety of navigation and detract from the recreational experience itself. Therefore, the Conservancy will continue to maintain its moratorium on the number of deep water moorings, object to proposals for new marinas and any new facilities which will provide new public access to the water for vessels.

A 'launch-on-demand' facility refers to a fixed structure to store, or mobile structure to lift boats into the water and then allow the boat to float off the supporting structure and vice versa. Very often, for reasons of security, a mobile structure may require to be housed in a building close to the shoreline and areas of hard standing, perhaps enclosed by fencing and may also be required to 'marshal' boats waiting to be launched.

Where such works require planning permission, the Conservancy will require that the natural beauty of the AONB and its nature conservation interests are given priority over recreational and maritime business interests. Where the latter are not compatible with the former, the Conservancy will be likely to object to such proposals.



PP14

Horse/Pony Grazing and Related Structures

The Conservancy is unlikely to object to applications for horse and/or pony grazing provided that the proposal does not have an adverse impact on the landscape or any nature conservation interests.

The Conservancy is unlikely to object to horse/pony-related structures that are:

- Sensitively sited so as not to be obtrusive in the AONB landscape; and
- Simple in appearance and modest in scale; and
- Constructed using a palette of natural materials with a muted finish.

Reasoned justification

The use of agricultural land for horse and pony grazing can have a detrimental effect on the character of the AONB, erode its rural qualities and interfere with its recorded use by wildlife. This is particularly true where paddocks are poorly managed, fields are subdivided with inappropriate fencing or where horse shelters are prolific, poorly constructed and not maintained. These together with other paraphernalia such as jumps and horse equipment stored outside of the buildings can have a detrimental impact, particularly in exposed locations.

The Conservancy may ask the LPAs to attach conditions to control the overall appearance of the development, which may include asking for a restriction on the outside storage of equipment and the use of post and rail fencing rather than plastic.



PP15

Signage Requiring Express Advertisement Consent

The Conservancy is unlikely to object to applications for signage where:

- **The proposal relates well to the setting of the host building(s) or where the signage is positioned on buildings so as to respect the elevational composition of the building and avoid visual clutter; and**
- **Opportunities are sought for a single, co-ordinated sign at the common entrance to shared business premises; and**
- **The proposal is not harmful to the rural character of the AONB.**

Reasoned justification

Chichester Harbour AONB is a Special Area of Advertisement Control as established by an Order on 27 November 1997, where the AONB falls within Chichester District. Special justification will be needed for directional signage not commissioned through the local Highways Authority. It is considered that with the advent of satellite navigation and good mapping on the internet, excessive directional signage is unnecessary and unduly clutters the highway network in the AONB, possibly also distracting drivers, which could have an adverse highway safety impact on non-vehicle users of the highway.

Proposals should be of a size which does not dominate the setting or elevation of a building. The top of any projecting signage to a shop front should generally be contiguous with the top of any fascia signage. The use of wooden, hand painted and non-illuminated signage, avoiding the use of garish or day-glow colours is unlikely to be objected to.

Where an applicant can provide written justification for the need for illumination (e.g. for health and safety reasons), external illumination by cowed/trough down lighting will be preferred. The housing for such down lighting should be colour finished, rather than bare metal, with matte black powder coating as a favoured option.

The Conservancy will use the recommendations of the Institute of Lighting Engineers for lit and unlit zones, especially to preserve the sense of darkness, remoteness and tranquillity outside defined settlement boundaries.

PP16

Renewable Energy

Micro-renewable energy installations are understood to be small scale and typically located adjacent to residential properties and/or small businesses. The Conservancy is likely to support proposals for micro-renewable energy installations under the following criteria:

- To be sited discreetly or out of view from public vantage points; and
- As far as practicable, to minimise their impact on the appearance of the installation on the site and/or building; and
- To be unobtrusive in relation to the wider landscape setting; and
- To operate at noise levels not exceeding 10dB(A) above background noise levels, within 50 metres of the installation.

The Conservancy is likely to object to all other sized renewable energy installations due to the potential detrimental visual and/or other impacts on the landscape of the AONB.

Reasoned justification

Permitted development rights for micro-generation are currently set out in the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) England Order 2015. The LPA can advise on whether works are, or are not, permitted development

As the scale of the renewable energy installations increases, so does the potential for visual and other impacts on the AONB. In certain circumstances, the long-term impacts of the technologies may be capable of being adequately mitigated and applicants would be required to provide further details of any such proposed mitigation.

The scale of renewable energy installations will be assessed in terms of their height, site coverage and bulk in their immediate context. With respect to wind turbines, any adverse impact can be experienced over considerable distances. In addition, large wind turbines or large installations of turbines are likely to have impacts on nature conservation interests and the tranquillity of the AONB. Given the scale of these technologies it is unlikely that their wider impacts could be successfully mitigated.

PP17

Telecommunication Development

The Conservancy is unlikely to object to applications for prior approval or planning permission for telecommunications development within and adjacent to the AONB, where the application includes evidence to demonstrate the following:

- There is an essential need for the development in the proposed location; and
- Evidence that the potential for mast sharing and/or undergrounding has been thoroughly explored and it is explained why these options are not possible; and
- That other, less sensitive locations have been fully considered and why these have been discounted; and
- The height, colour and design of the development have been designed to reduce visual impacts; and
- Details of natural, or appropriate other screening is included.

Reasoned justification

Telecommunication development, especially masts, can have a detrimental impact on the wider landscape of the AONB, whether they are located within or adjacent to the AONB boundary. Applicants are encouraged to consider reducing the impacts of these often intrusive vertical features in the landscape and will need to demonstrate the need for the mast or masts in the location proposed, including information regarding existing signal coverage.



PP18

Access Infrastructure

Proposals to improve infrastructure related to walking, cycling and ease of use of public transport are likely to be supported by the Conservancy.

Reasoned justification

The AONB designation was awarded in part because it was recognised that the environment of Chichester Harbour should be protected for the nation and future generations to enjoy. However, road access to the eastern and western sides of the Harbour can often become congested at peak spring and summer periods.

The Conservancy supports the ability of the public to make informed decisions about sustainable travel choices when visiting and moving around the AONB, and will seek to reduce reliance on use of private motor vehicles.

Local Transport Plans produced by Hampshire County Council and West Sussex County Council seek to achieve an improvement in modal shift to walking, cycling and use of public transport. The Conservancy will work with its partners to promote new initiatives to achieve these changes.

To improve integrated access within the AONB, the Conservancy will support initiatives that are sensitively executed, with minimum visual impact in the wider landscape, so as to retain the rural character of many of the highways passing through and across the AONB, including:

- New and improved bus stops and shelters, including the introduction of real time information systems; and
- Safer pedestrian and cyclist connections between new developments and local amenities such as shops, schools and bus stops; and
- Replacement/new wayfinding signage to encourage walking and cycling in the AONB.



Section 4

Appendix

Page 476



Chichester Harbour in Facts and Figures

The purpose of a State of the AONB Report, which is a separate and accompanying document to the Management Plan, is to collate the latest available facts and figures to assist with the development of policies. The first two Chichester Harbour AONB State of the AONB Reports were prepared and published by Land Use Consultants (LUC), firstly in 2013 and then updated in 2018. Both are available to download from Chichester Harbour Conservancy's website.

Biodiversity

- 51% of Chichester Harbour AONB is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), covering 3,965 hectares.
- There are 3 internationally Important Birds that use the Harbour: dunlin, dark-bellied brent geese and black-tailed godwit.
- There are 8 nationally Important Birds that use the Harbour: redshank, curlew, grey plover, bar-tailed godwit, ringed plover, little egret, red breasted merganser, and greenshank.
- There are approximately 40 harbour (common) seals and 10 grey seals.
- There are approximately 200 maritime taxa including invertebrates, algae and fish.

Business

- There are 455 businesses in Chichester Harbour.
- The most common type of businesses in the AONB are professional, scientific and technical services (19%) and wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles (16%).
- Manufacturing (17%), wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles (16%) and service of accommodation and food (13%) employ the greatest number of people.
- 7,800 people are within employment age, of which 45% (3,500) are employed, compared to 61% in the South East. This is explained by high number of retired people living in Chichester Harbour, 31%, compared to 21% in the South East.
- Primary and secondary industries such as agriculture (7%), manufacturing (9%) and construction (11%) are other common business types found in the Harbour.

- Micro businesses are very significant employers within the Harbour, particularly when compared with the rest of the South East. In both areas, micro businesses account for around 75% of businesses, but they provide 45% of employment within the Harbour compared to 17% in the wider South East area.
- 1.5 million people visit Chichester Harbour every year, of which over 500,000 visit the West Wittering Estate and/or East Head.
- In 2009 the total value of Chichester Harbour was estimated to be £2.78 billion, made-up from maritime businesses (£524 million), residential property (£2,151 million), tourism (£44 million), land values (£52 million) and recreation (£1.2 million).

Farming

- 70% of farming land within Chichester Harbour is within Grades 1 (excellent) and 2 (very good), reflecting the highly fertile land which is suited to arable cropping and cereal growing.
- The farmed land around Chichester Harbour is dominated by arable farming which comprises 78.7% of agricultural land. The area of land used for cereal cropping has increased to 2,202 hectares in 2016. While the total amount of farmland has increased, the total number of holdings has fallen in recent years, demonstrating a trend towards larger holdings.
- The amount of land managed under agri-environment schemes (Environmental Stewardship or Countryside Stewardship) has declined by 64.8% from 1,892 hectares in 2013 to 666 hectares in 2018. This is because many of the Environmental Stewardship Schemes within Chichester Harbour have come to an end.
- Livestock numbers have declined significantly since 2009. The number of farms with grazing livestock has decreased from nine (2009) to three (2016).

Historic Environment and Heritage Assets

- There are 4 Scheduled Monuments, at Fishbourne Roman Palace, Tournerbury Hillfort, Warblington Castle, and Black Barn.
- There are 271 Listed Buildings, comprising 7 Grade 1, 5 Grade 2* and 259 Grade 2.
- There are 1,000 Historic Environment Record (HER) sites.
- There are 10 Conservation Areas, all with up-to-date Conservation Character Area Appraisals.

Landscape Character

- The AONB covers 7,400 hectares (29 square miles) of which 41% is below mean high water springs
- There are 9 Landscape Character Types.
- There are 16 Landscape Character Areas.
- There are 86 kilometres (53 miles) of shoreline of which 24 kilometres (15 miles) are undefended and natural.
- According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 1,331 hectares of lowland maybe at risk of flooding by 2100, 32% of Chichester Harbour.

Population and Housing

- The population of Chichester Harbour has increased from 10,502 to 10,585 between 2011 and 2016.
- There are 5,069 dwellings.
- Levels of overall deprivation are generally amongst the lowest in England.
- Conversely, levels of deprivation against the 'Barriers to Housing and Services' indicator are among the most deprived in the country. This is likely to be a result of high property prices.
- Average property values in Chichester Harbour are £392,897, 5.3% higher than those across the South East region, which average £373,100.
- Chichester District and Havant Borough as a whole have a significant number of second home owners, totalling 10,649.
- There has been no affordable housing built in Chichester Harbour for many years.

Public Rights of Way, Permissive Paths, Bridleways and Cycle Routes

- There are 91.5 kilometres of Public Rights of Way (56.5 miles).
- There are 12 kilometres of Permissive Paths (7.5 miles).
- There are 5 kilometres (3 miles) of the Solent Way in Chichester Harbour (total length is 60 miles, 97 kilometres).
- There are 12 kilometres of dedicated cycle route, the Salterns Way (7.5 miles).
- There is 1 kilometre of bridleway (0.6 of a mile).
- There are over 40 interpretation panels around Chichester Harbour.

Sailing & Boating

- There are 30 square kilometres of water (11.5 square miles).
- There are 27 kilometres of well-lit channels (17 miles).
- There are 10,500 registered vessels.
- There are 5,200 moorings and marina berths.
- There are 14 sailing clubs.
- Every year 25,000 people enjoy the Harbour's waters for racing, cruising and fishing.

Transport and Services

- All settlements within Chichester Harbour can access online grocery delivery.
- There are 5 schools, 11 churches, 2 GPs and 2 post offices.
- Chichester Harbour is generally well serviced with bus service along the main roads. Several rural roads, up to 2 miles from the main road, either do not have a bus route or it only operates on an occasional basis.

Trees and Woodlands

- Total woodland cover in the AONB is 158.9 hectares. The majority of woodland cover within the AONB is broadleaved (89%), which covers a total of 142 hectares. The amount of broadleaved woodland has remained approximately the same since 2013. However, young trees now comprise 6% of woodland cover; this figure has doubled in the last five years.
- Ancient and semi-natural woodland covers 71 hectares (or 1%) of Chichester Harbour. This has not changed since 2013.
- Between 2014 and 2017, Chichester Harbour Conservancy planted 8,585 trees, in partnership with the Friends of Chichester Harbour.

Water Quality

- The designated bathing site at West Wittering Beach has had an 'Excellent' water quality rating since 2014.
- Between 2016 and 201, all of the 11 water quality testing areas within Chichester Harbour were compliant when measured against the EU Bathing Water Directive.

Locally Designated Sites

Conservation Areas, Dark Sky Discovery Sites and Nature Reserves

Conservation Areas are designated in recognition of special architectural and historic interest.

Conservation Area	Local Planning Authority
Emsworth	Havant
Langstone	Havant
Wade Court	Havant
Warblington	Havant
Bosham	Chichester
Dell Quay	Chichester
Fishbourne	Chichester
Prinsted	Chichester
West Itchenor	Chichester
West Wittering	Chichester

Dark Sky Discovery Sites are places that are away from the worst of any local light pollution, provide excellent sightlines of the sky and have good public access, including firm ground for wheelchairs.

Dark Sky Discovery Site	Local Planning Authority
Eames Farm, Thorney Island	Chichester
Maybush Copse, Chidham	Chichester
North of the John Q. Davis Footpath, West Itchenor	Chichester



Local Nature Reserves are locally important and are designated to be protected them from nearby development.

Local Nature Reserve	Local Planning Authority
Eames Farm	Chichester
Gutner Point	Havant
Pilsey Island	Chichester
Nutborne Marshes	Chichester
Sandy Point	Havant



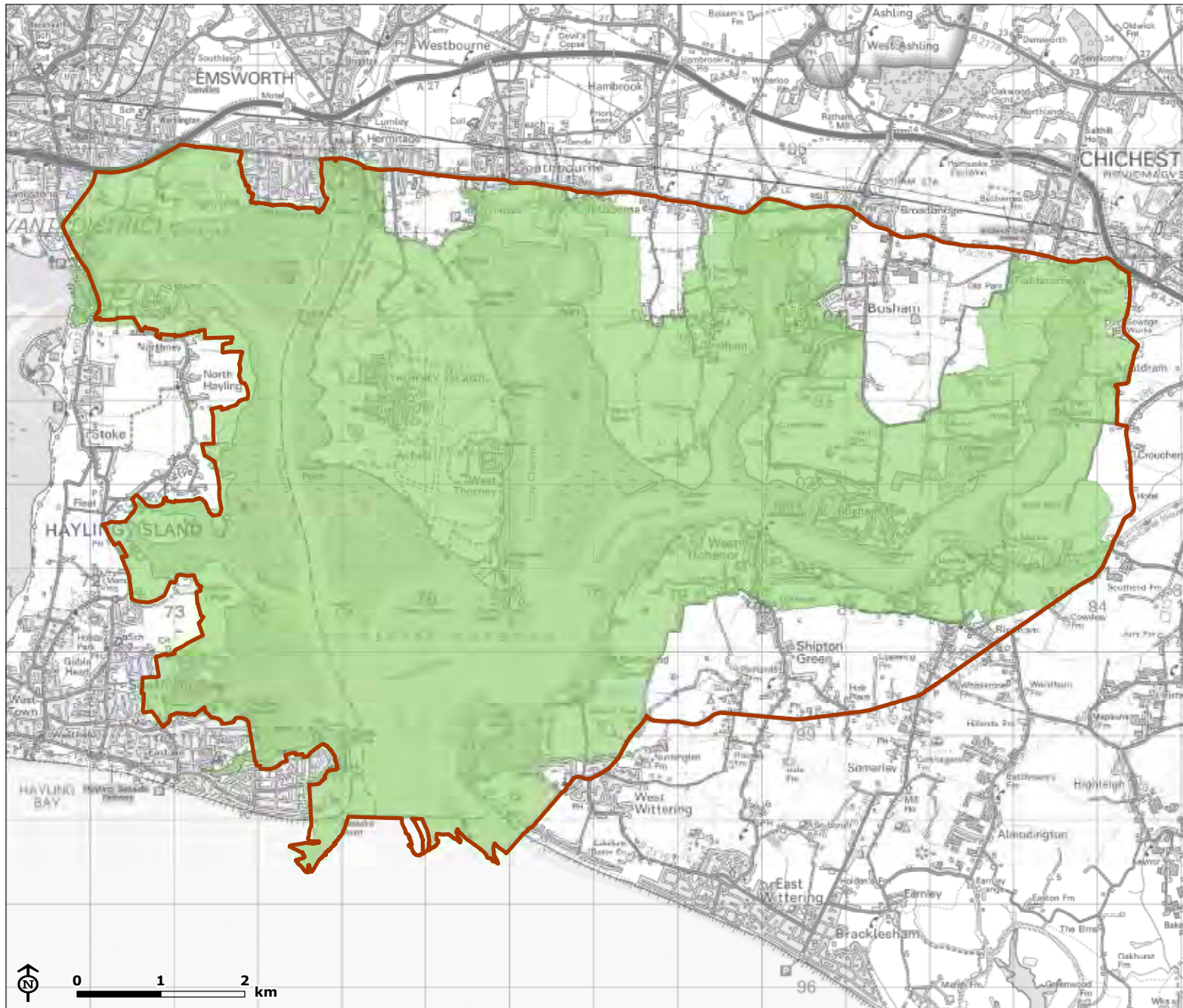
Map A

Amenity Area

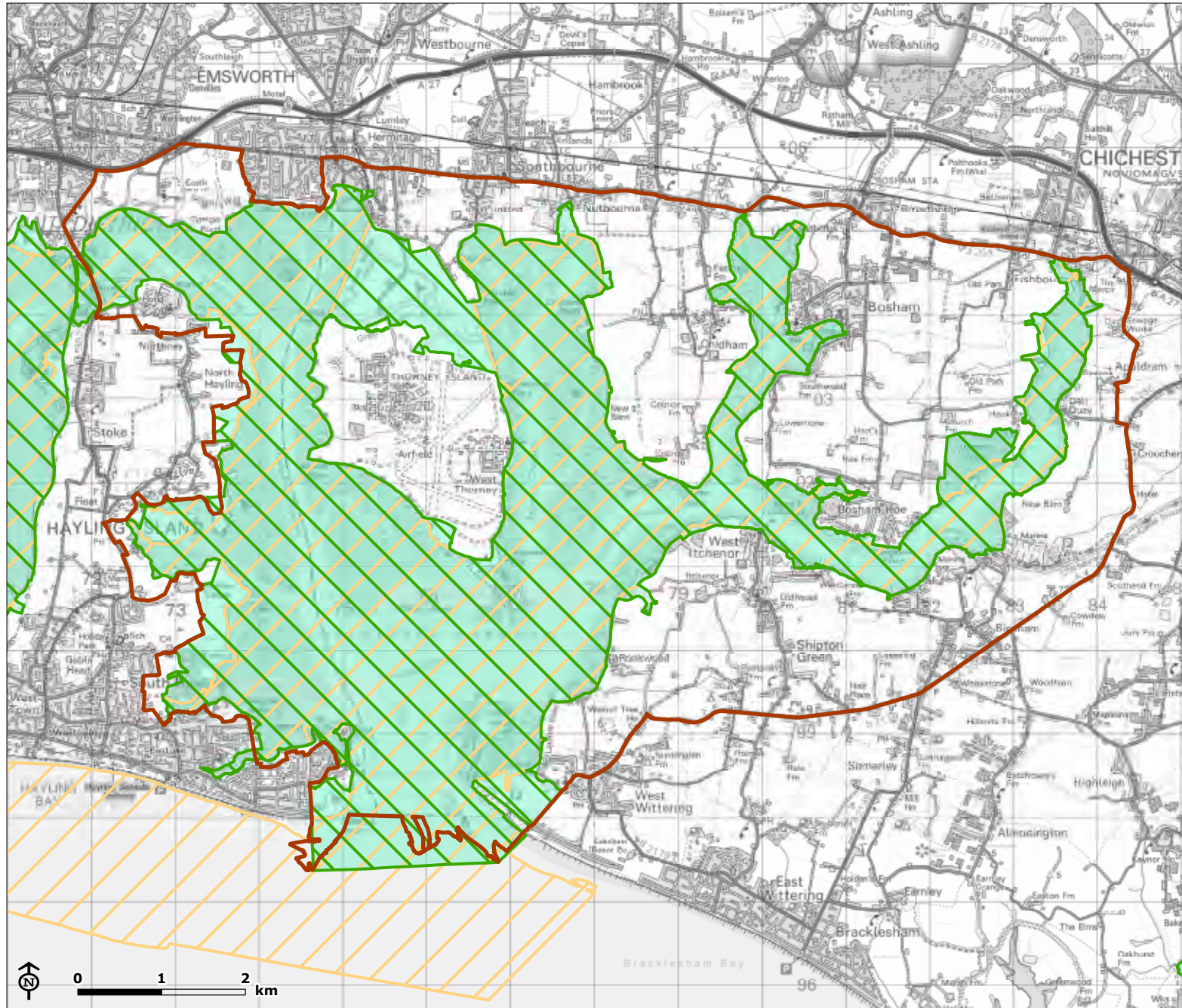
-  Chichester Harbour AONB as designated in 1964
-  Chichester Harbour Conservancy Amenity Area, as designated in 1971

Source: Chichester Harbour Conservancy

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000







© Natural England copyright 2018. © Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



Map B

Worldwide and European Designations

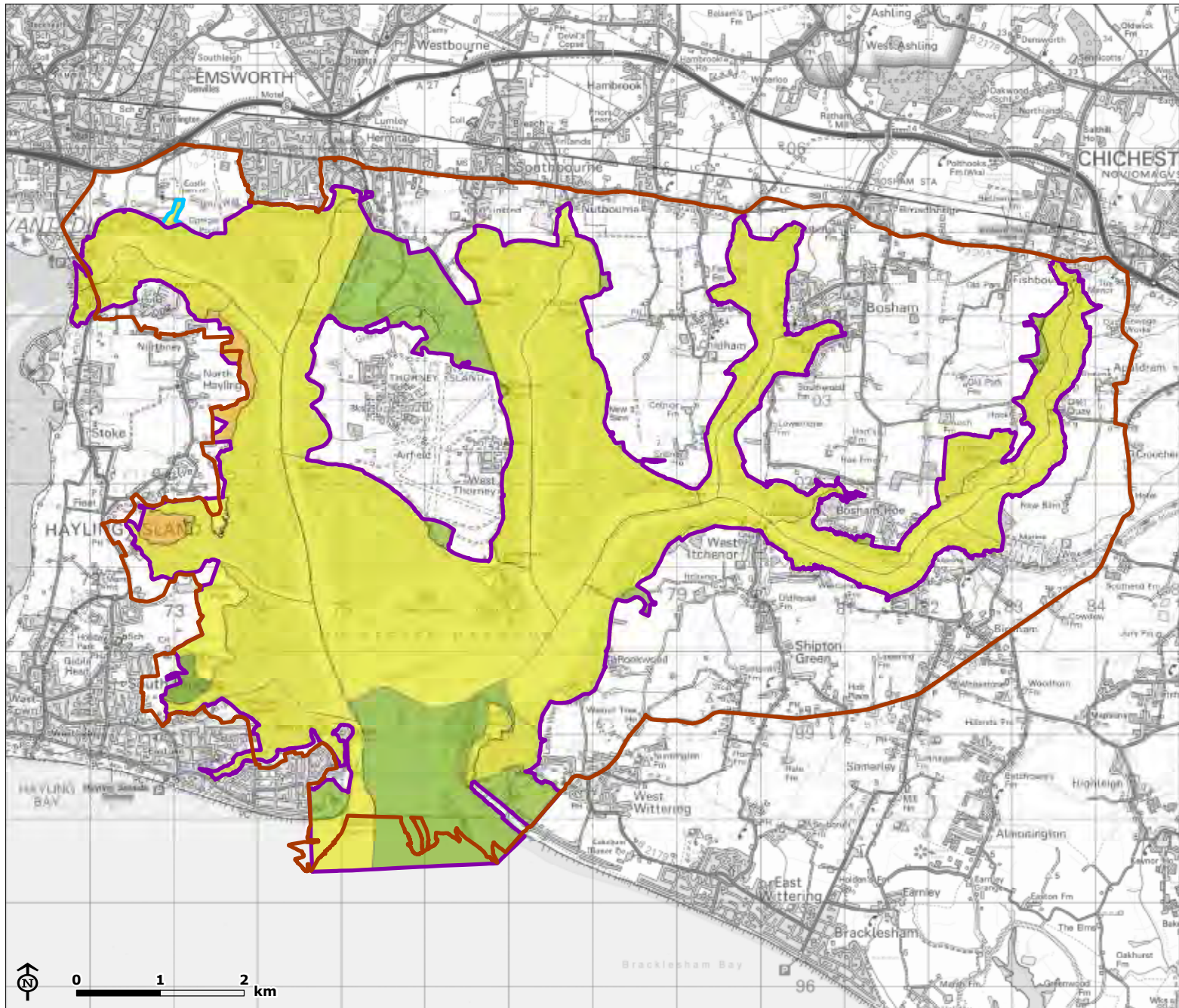
-  Chichester Harbour AONB
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Special Protection Area
-  Ramsar

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000



Page 482

© Natural England copyright 2018. © Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



Map C

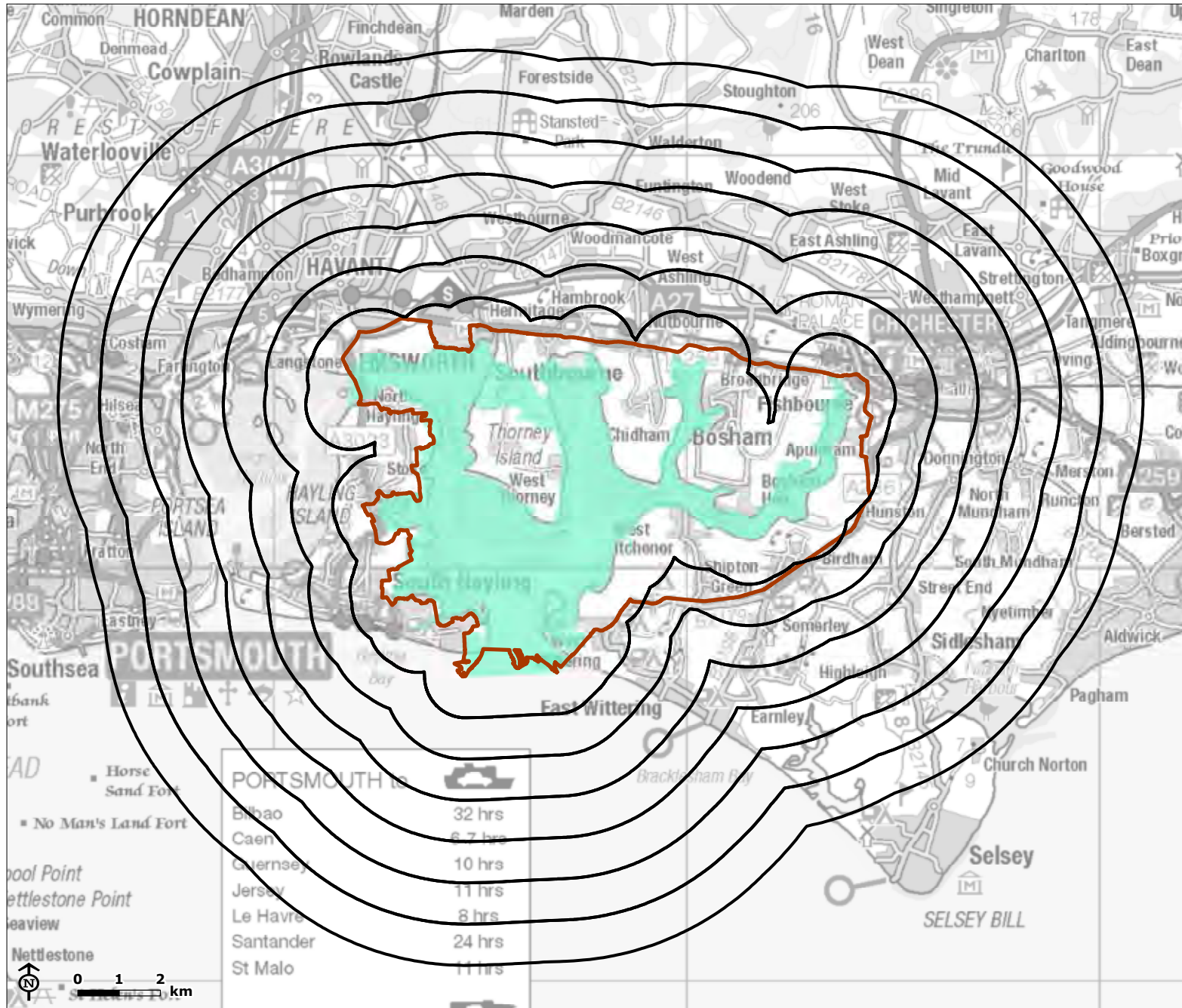
- Site of Special Scientific Interest**
- Chichester Harbour AONB
- SSSI name**
- Chichester Harbour
 - Warblington Meadow
- SSSI condition**
- Favourable
 - Unfavourable recovering*
 - Unfavourable no change

* Old Park Wood was recently upgraded by Natural England to 'unfavourable recovering'

Source: Chichester Harbour Conservancy




Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000





Map D

SPA Buffer Zone

-  Chichester Harbour AONB
-  Chichester and Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area
-  SPA 1 km Zones

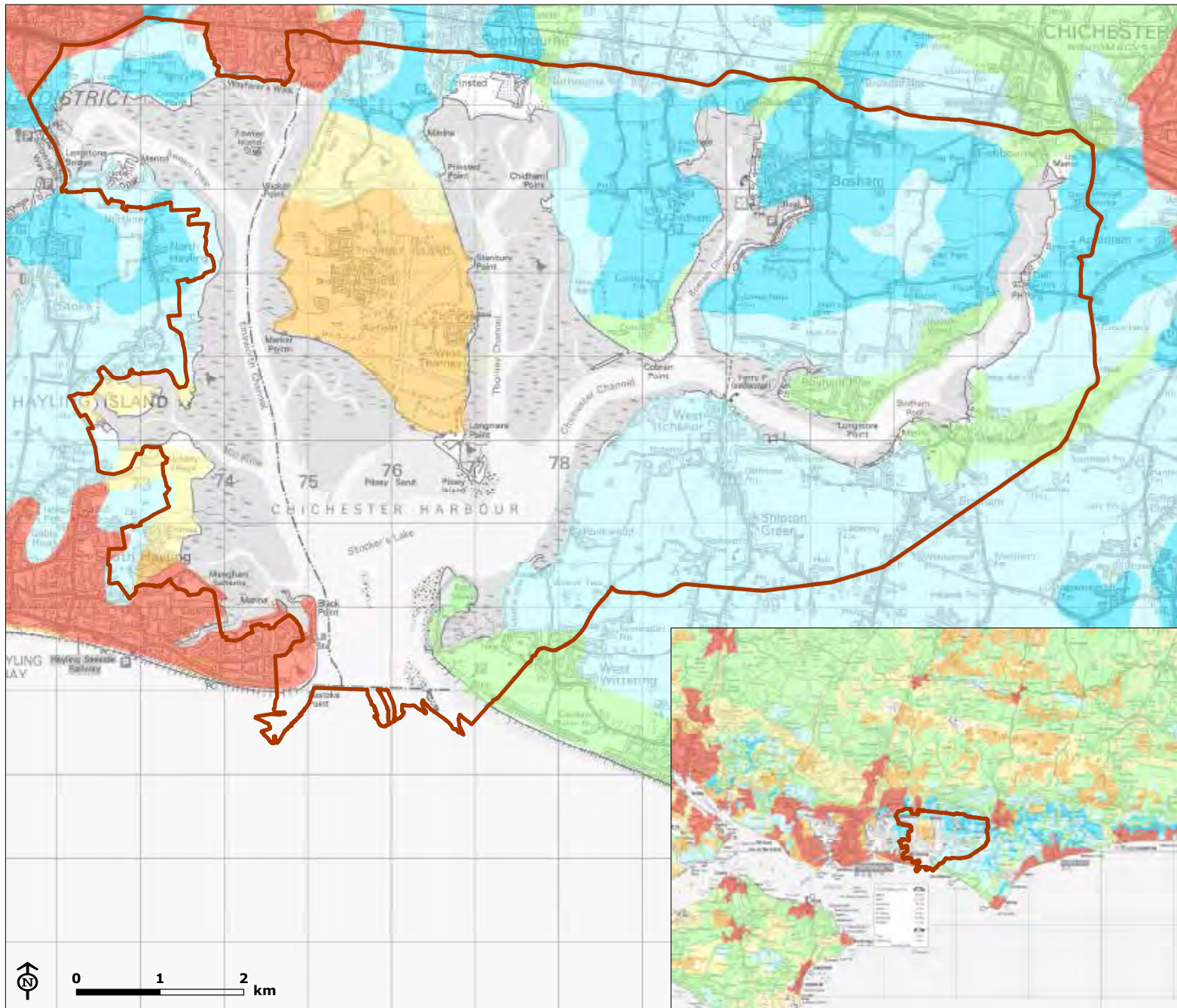
The developers of all new dwellings built within 5.6 kilometres of the Special Protection Area must pay a levy to Bird Aware Solent to offset recreational disturbance.

Source: West Sussex County Council

Map Scale @ A4: 1:132,000



© Natural England copyright 2018. © Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



Map E

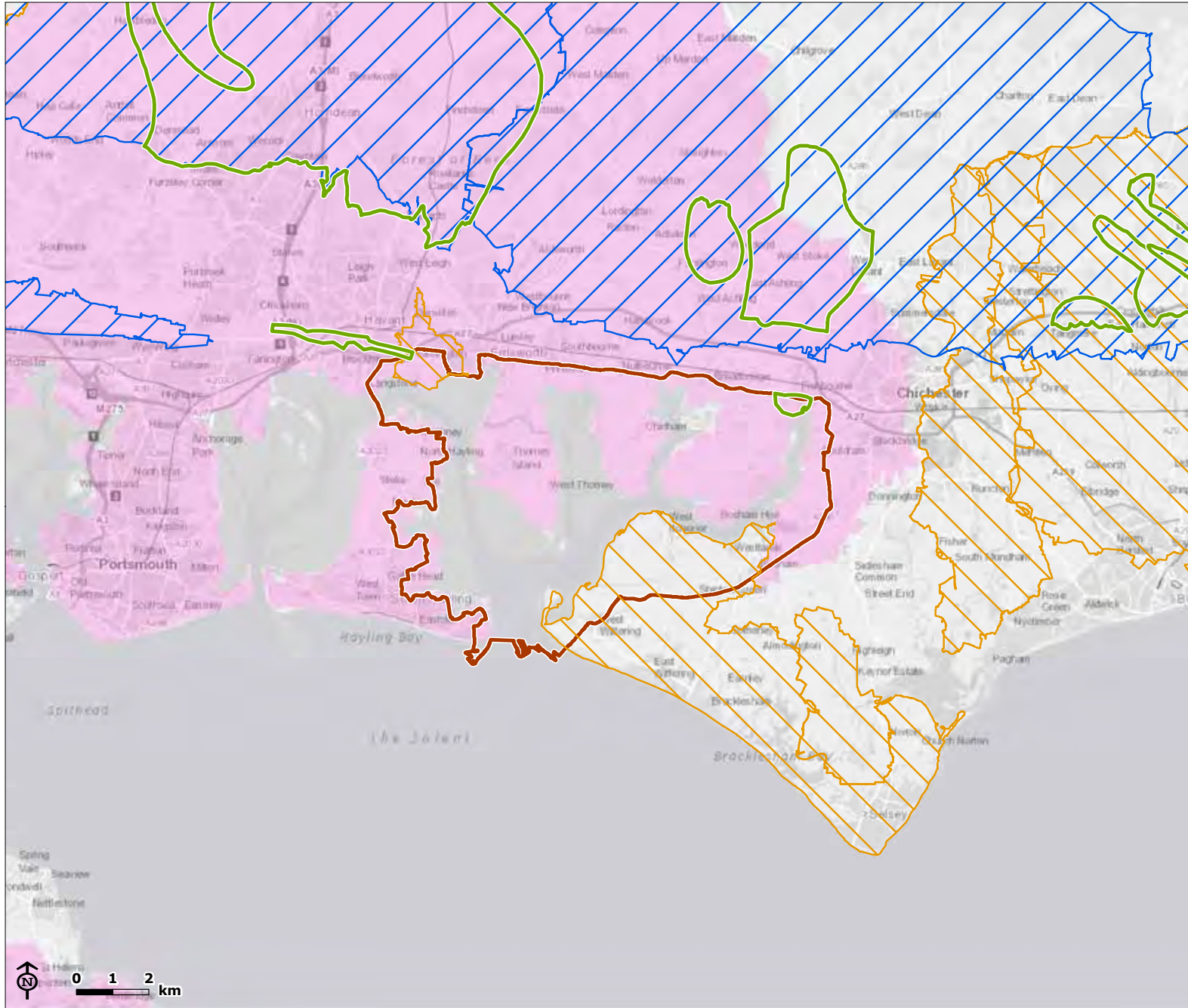
Agricultural Land Classification

- Chichester Harbour AONB
- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Grade 5
- Non Agricultural
- Urban

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000








© Natural England copyright 2018. © Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



Map F

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

-  Chichester Harbour AONB
-  Drinking Water Safeguard Zone
-  Nitrate Vulnerable Zone: Ground Water
-  Nitrate Vulnerable Zone: Surface Water
-  Nitrate Vulnerable Zone: Eutrophic Water

Source: DEFRA, Natural England







Map Scale @ A4: 1:150,000

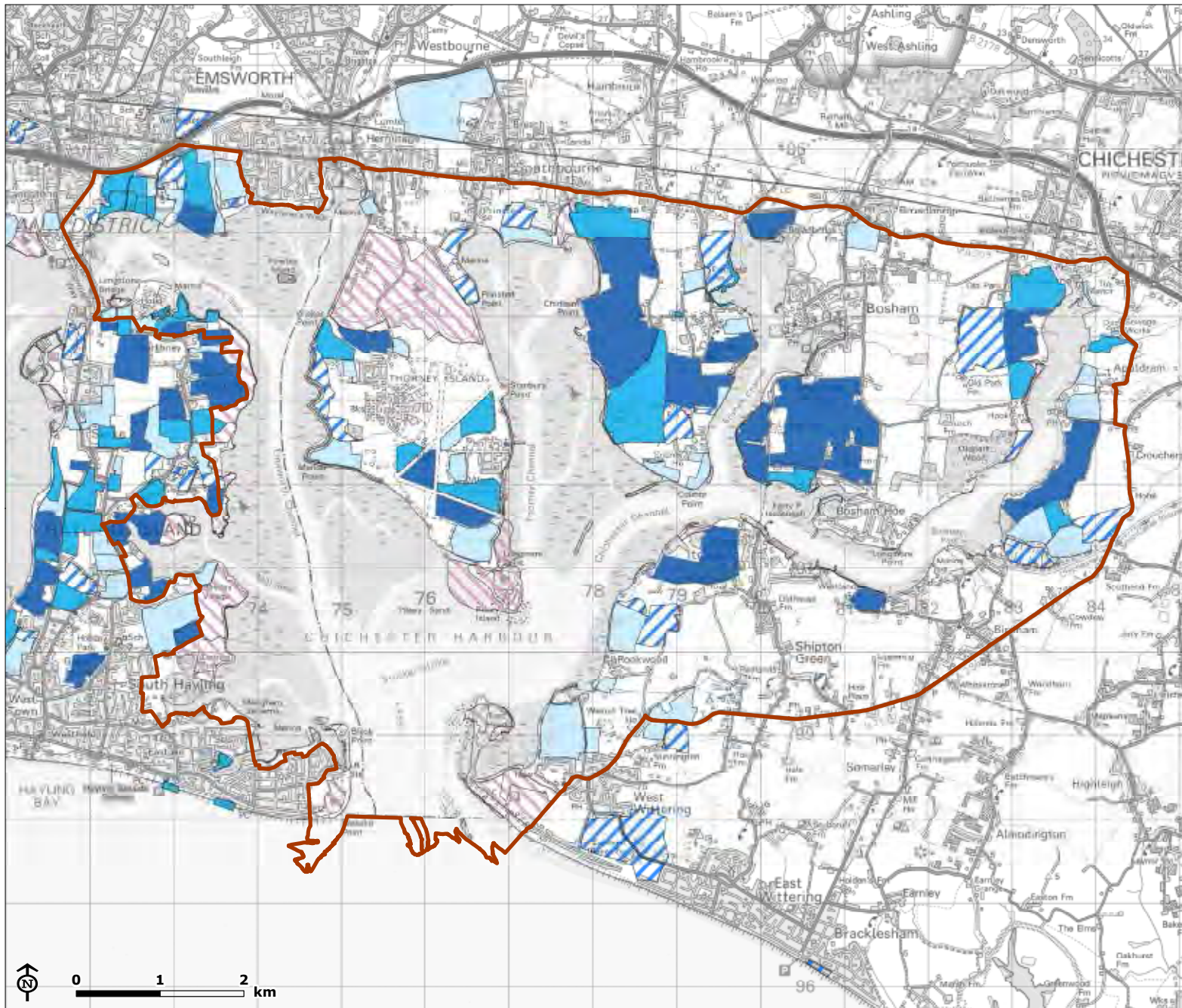


© Natural England copyright 2019. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019

Map G

Solent Waders and Brent Goose Network

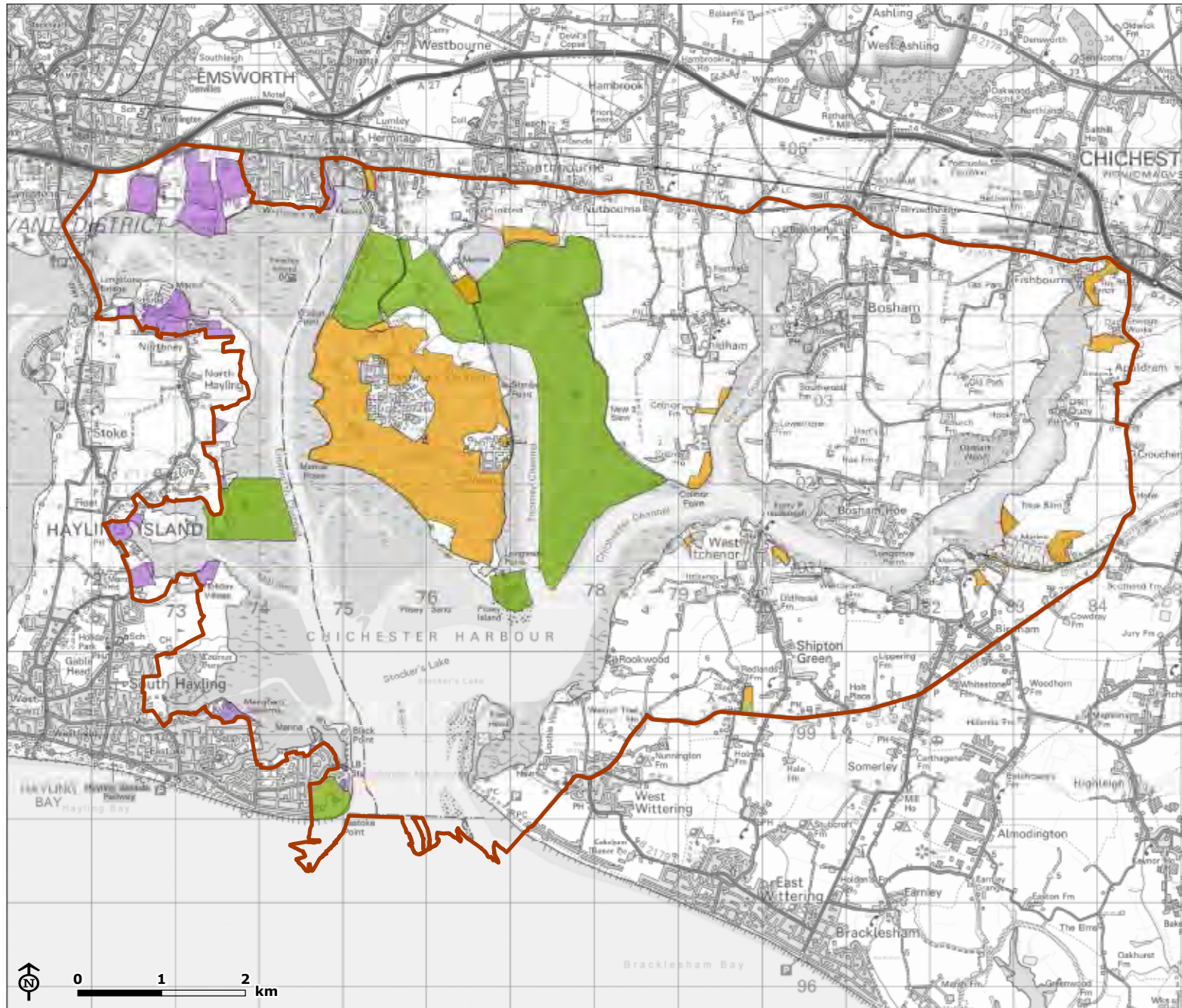
-  Chichester Harbour AONB
-  Core Area
-  Primary Support Area
-  Secondary Support Area
-  SPA site
-  Low Use



Source: Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000





Map H

Nature Sites

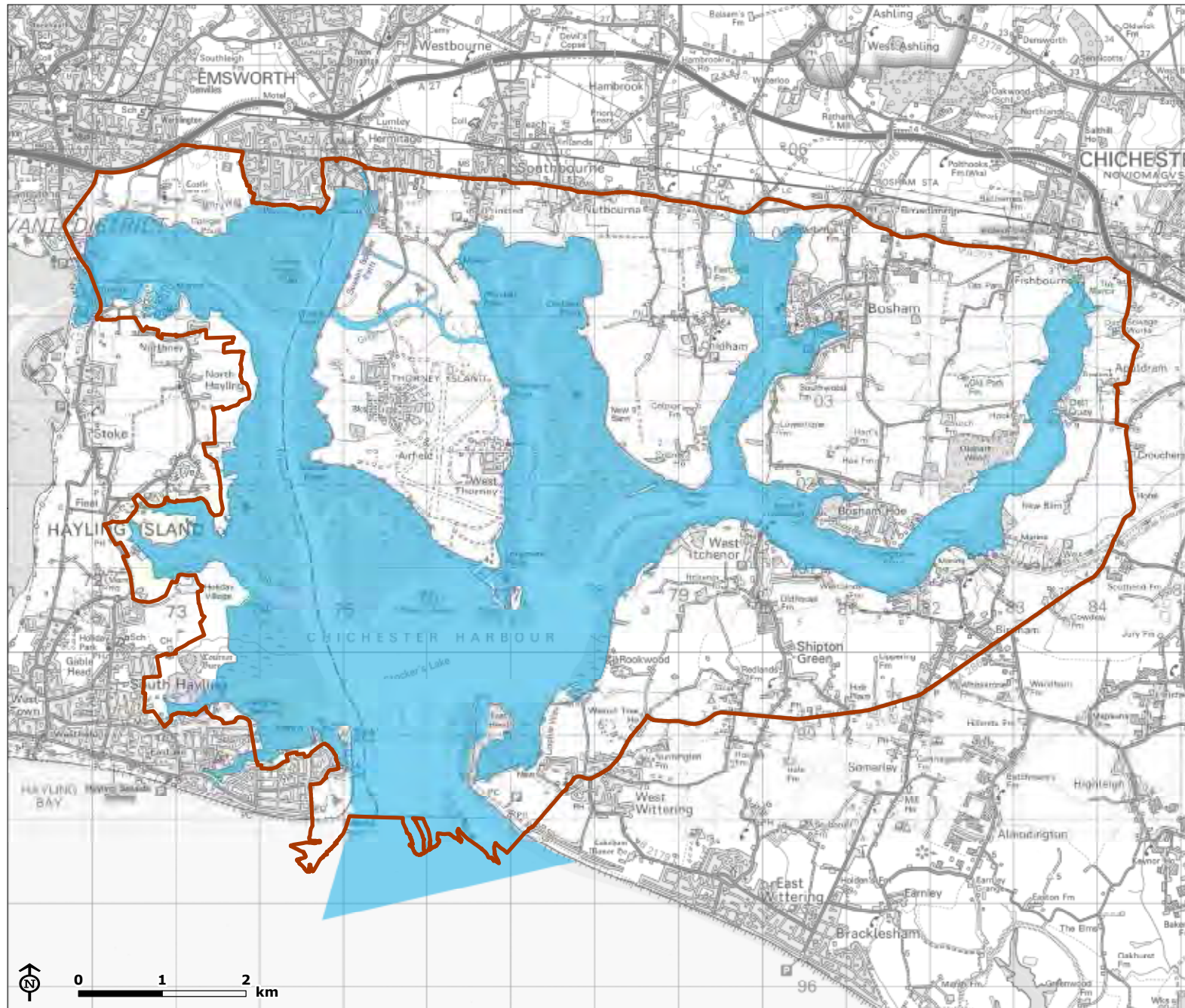
- Chichester Harbour AONB
- Local Wildlife site
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
- Local Nature Reserve

Source: Chichester District Council, Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre



Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000



© Natural England copyright 2018. © Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



Map I

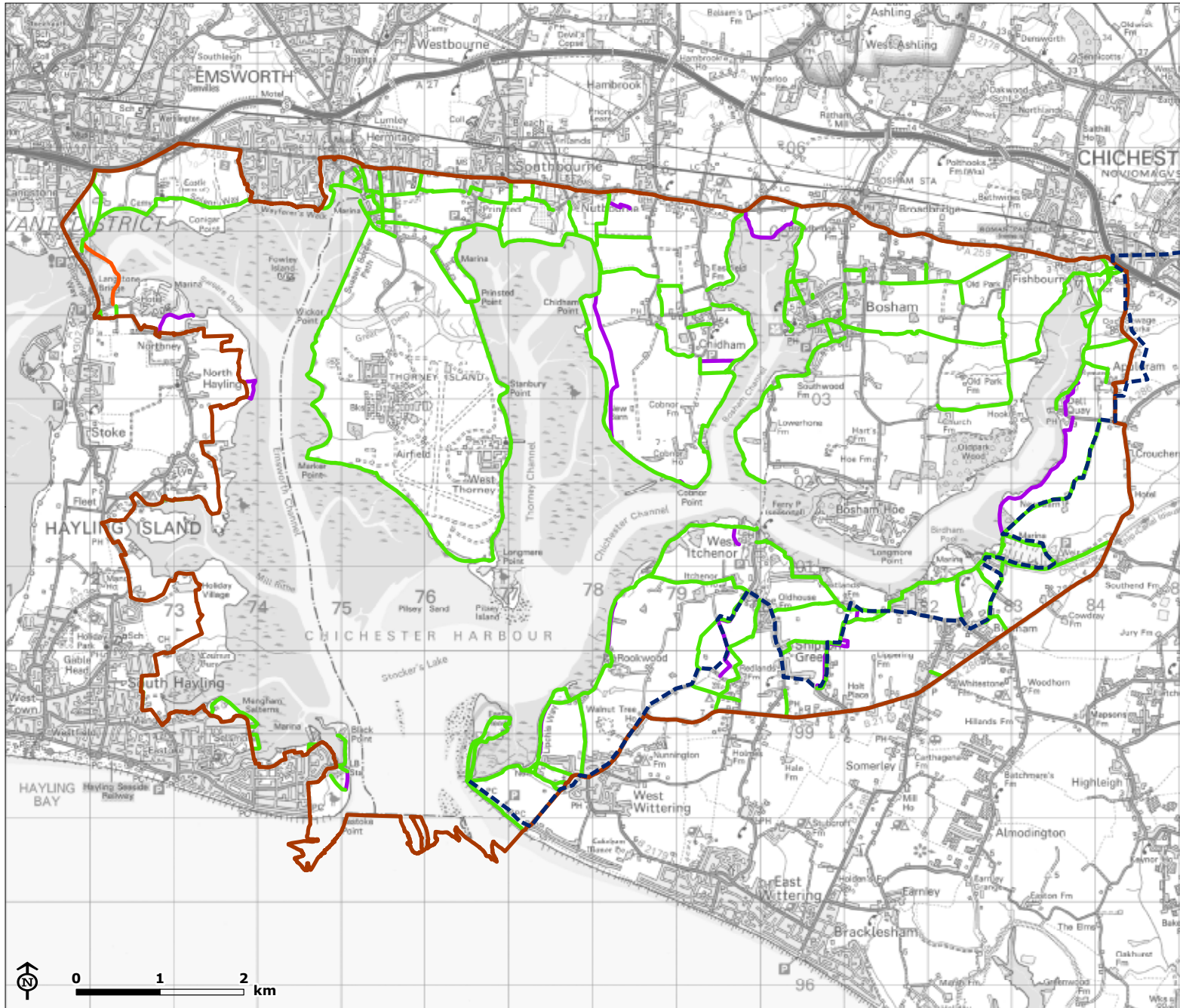
- Bass Nursery Area**
-  Chichester Harbour AONB
-  Bass Nursery Area

Source: Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000



© Natural England copyright 2018. © Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



Map J

Footpaths, Salterns Way and Bridleway

- Chichester Harbour AONB
- Public Right of Way
- Bridleway
- Permissive Path
- Salterns Way Cycle Route

Source: Hampshire County Council, West Sussex County Council, Chichester Harbour Conservancy


Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000










© Natural England copyright 2018. © Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

Map K

Population Density

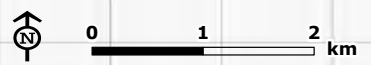
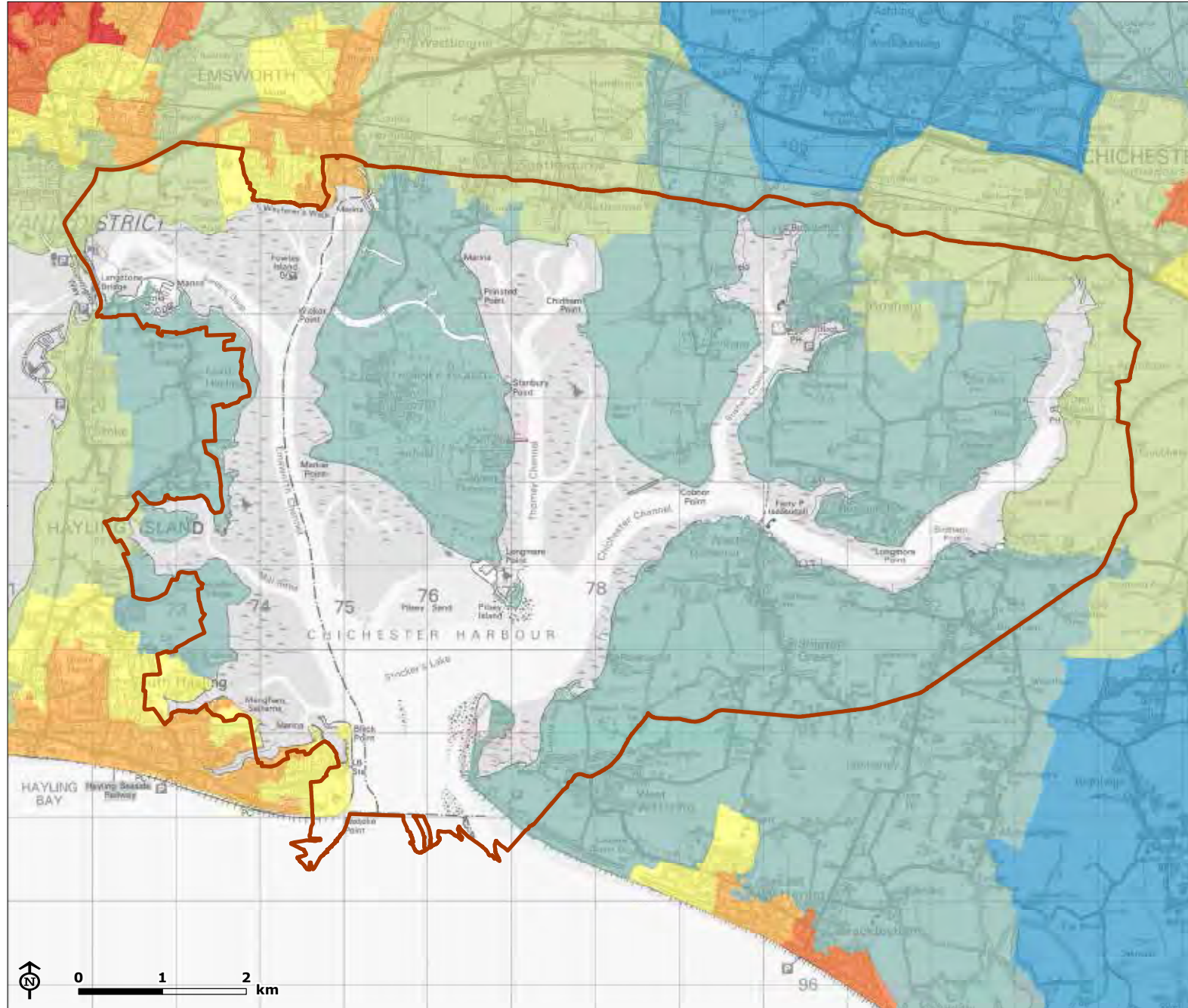
 Chichester Harbour AONB

(people per square km)

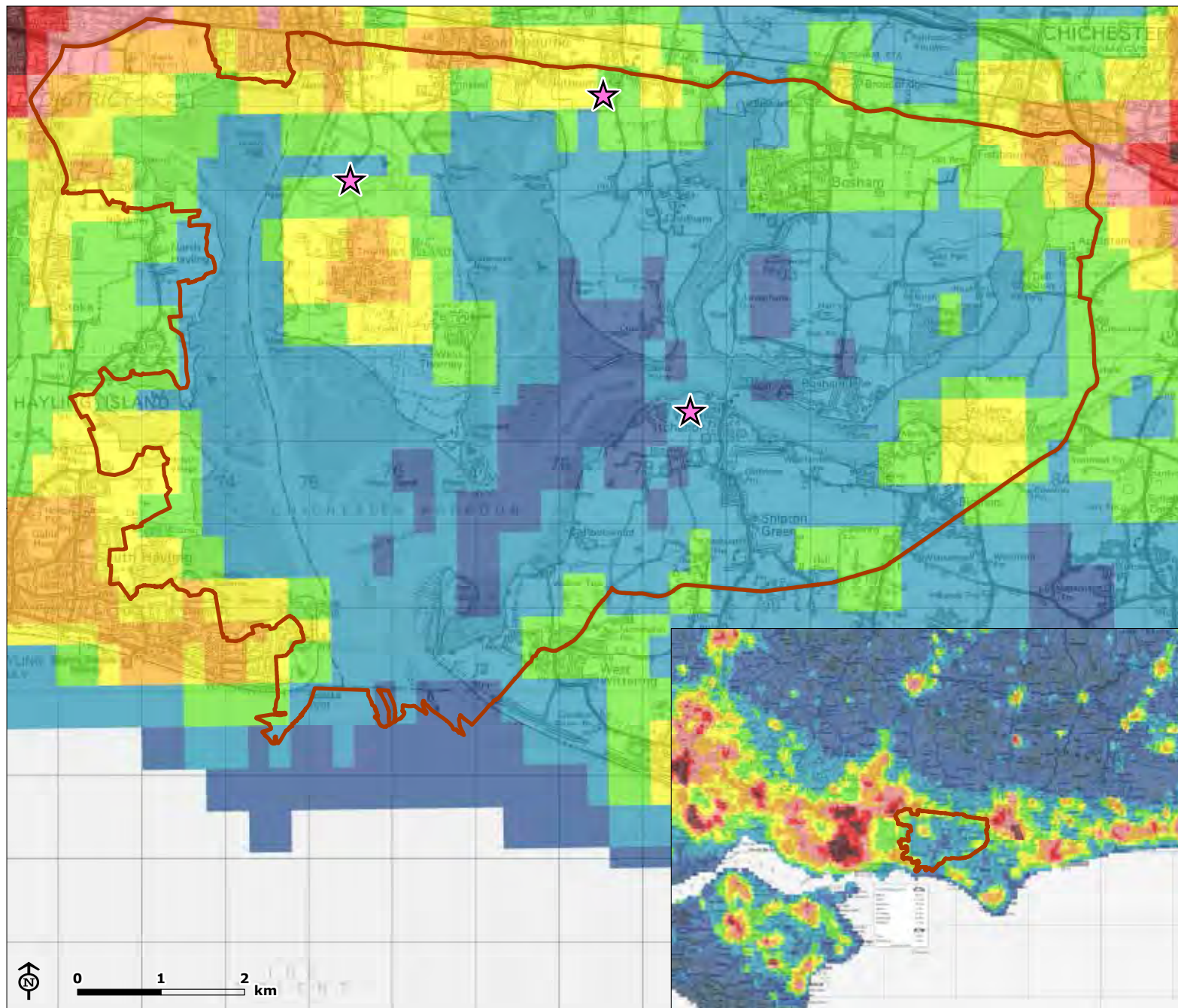
-  0 - 1
-  1 - 3
-  3 - 15
-  15 - 25
-  25 - 35
-  35 - 50
-  50 - 100

Source: Office for National Statistics

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000



© Natural England copyright 2018. © Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



Map L

Light Pollution

- Chichester Harbour AONB
- Dark Sky Discovery Site

(NanoWatts / cm² / sr)

	>32 (high)
	16 - 32
	8 - 16
	4 - 8
	2 - 4
	1 - 2
	0.5 - 1
	0.25 - 0.5
	< 0.25 (low)

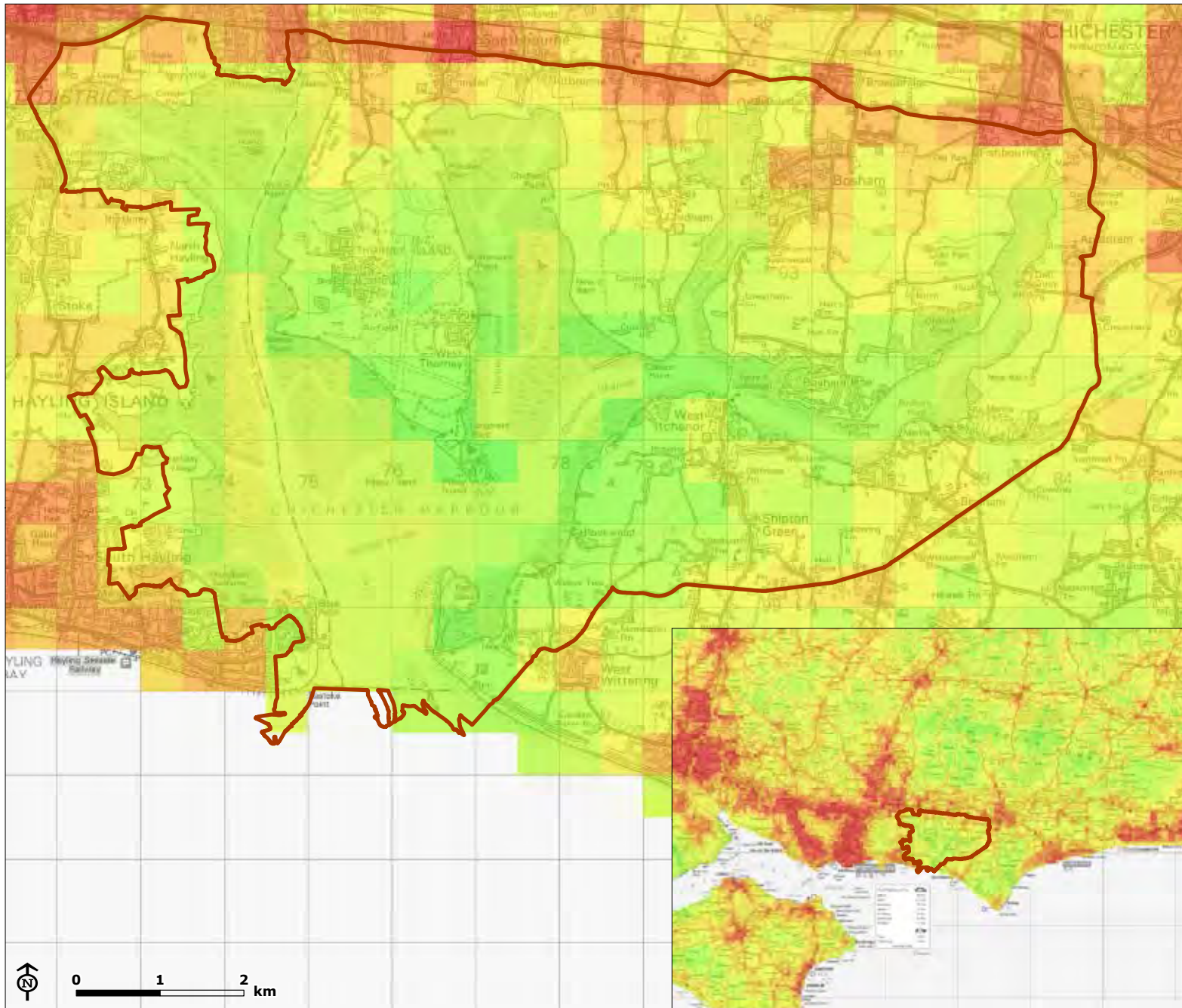
Source: Campaign to Protect Rural England

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000




© Natural England copyright 2018. © Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

CB:KS EB:Stenson_K LUC MAP6_10202_Dark_Skies_A4L 09/08/2018




Map M

Tranquillity

 Chichester Harbour AONB

National tranquillity scale

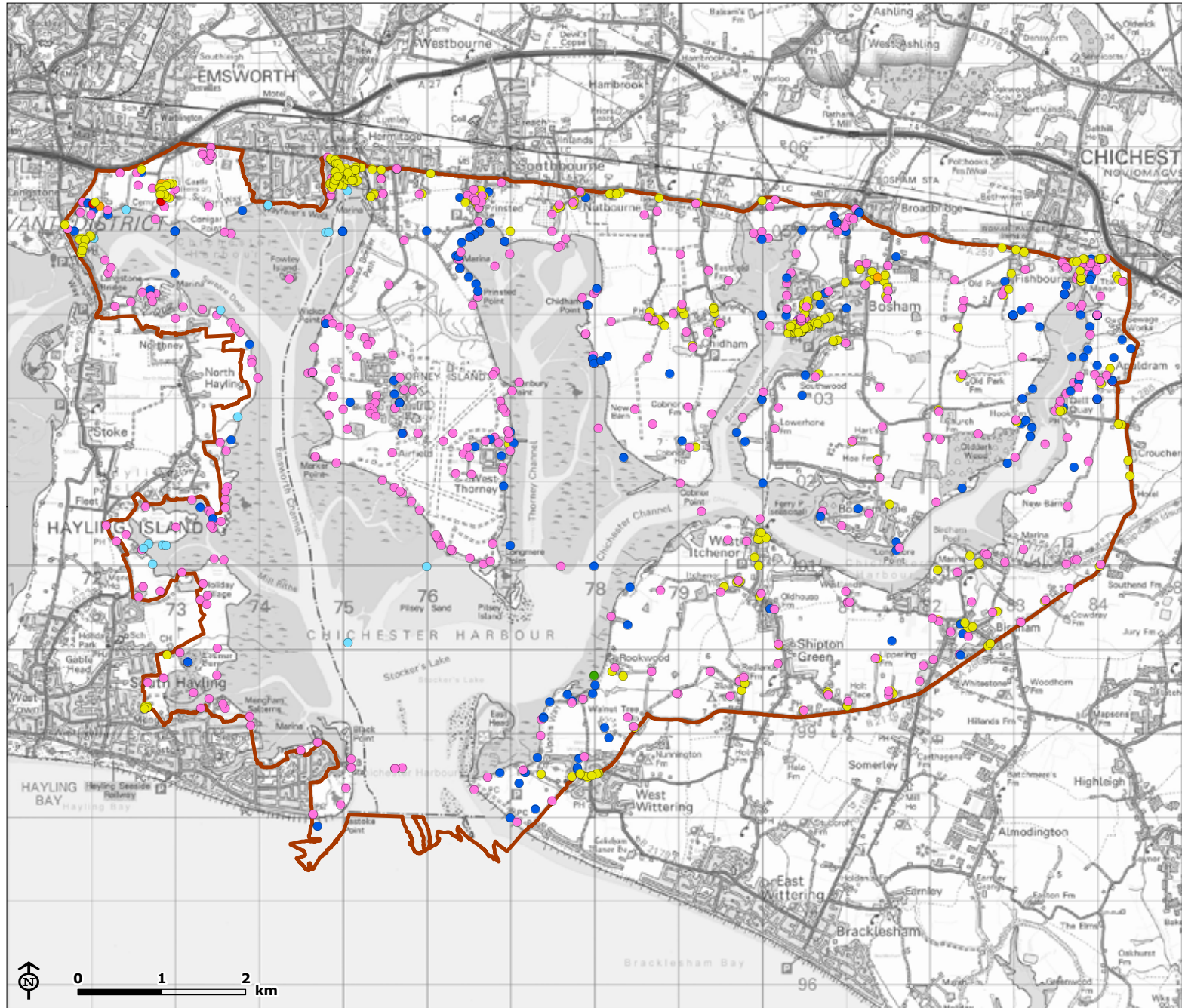
 Most tranquil
Least tranquil

Source: Campaign to Protect Rural England

Map Scale @ A4: 1:750,000



© Natural England copyright 2018. © Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



Map N

Historic Environment Record

- Chichester Harbour AONB
- Building
- Ecosite
- Findspot
- Monument
- Place
- Maritime
- Parks and Gardens

Source: Chichester District Council







Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000



© Natural England copyright 2019. © Crown copyright and database rights 2019 Ordnance Survey 0100031673 CB:KS EB:Stenson_K LUC MAP15_10202_HER_A4L 06/02/2019

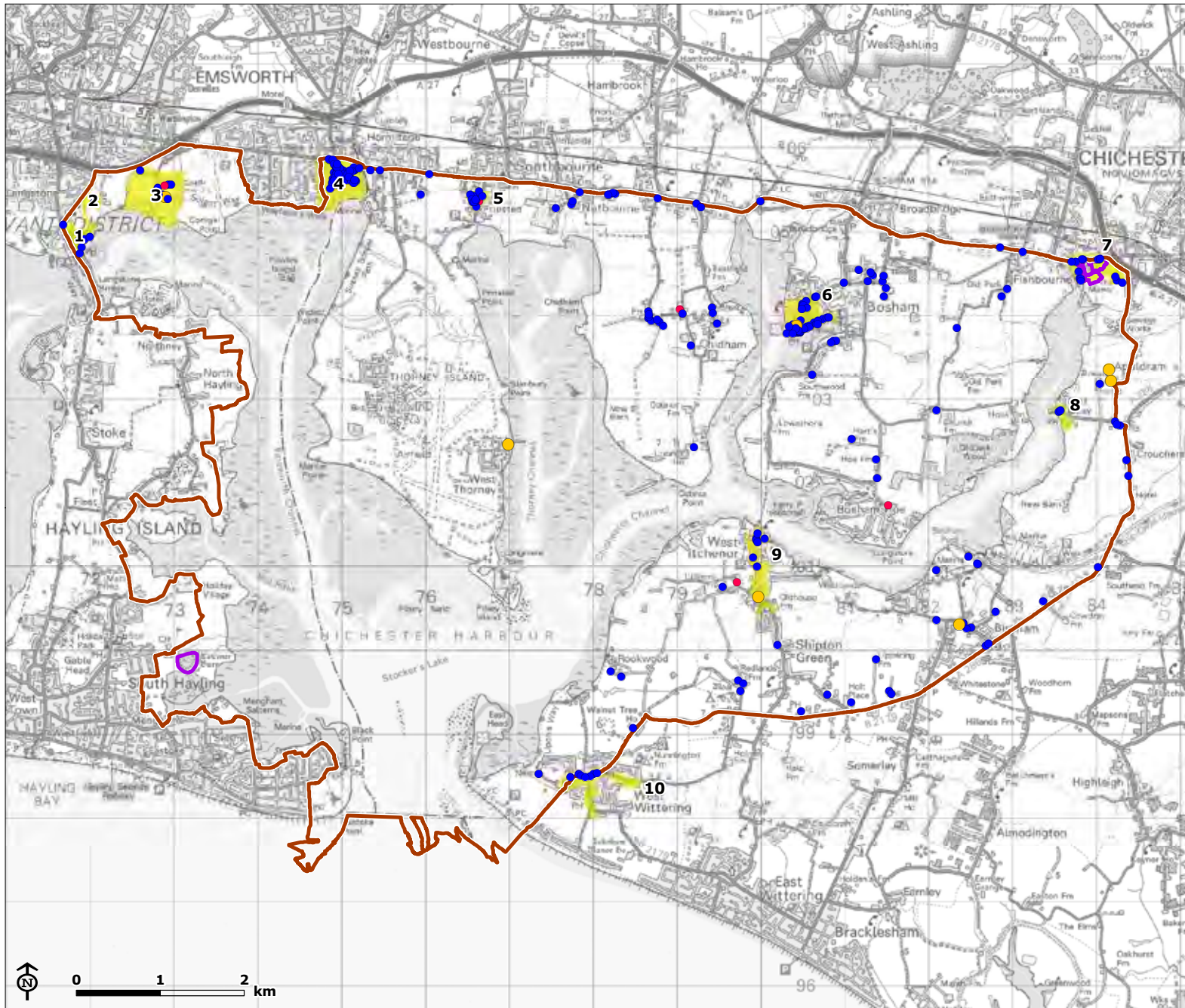
Map O

Heritage Assets

-  Chichester Harbour AONB
- Listed Buildings**
-  Grade I
-  Grade II*
-  Grade II
-  Scheduled Monument
-  Conservation Area
- 1: Langstone
- 2: Wade Court
- 3: Warblington
- 4: Emsworth
- 5: Prinsted
- 6: Bosham
- 7: Fishbourne
- 8: Dell Quay
- 9: West Itchenor
- 10: West Wittering

Source: Chichester District Council, Havant Borough Council

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000




© Natural England copyright 2019. © Historic England copyright 2019.
© Crown copyright and database rights 2019 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

CB:KS EB:Stenson_K LUC MAP5_10202_Heritage_A4L 07/02/2019



Map P

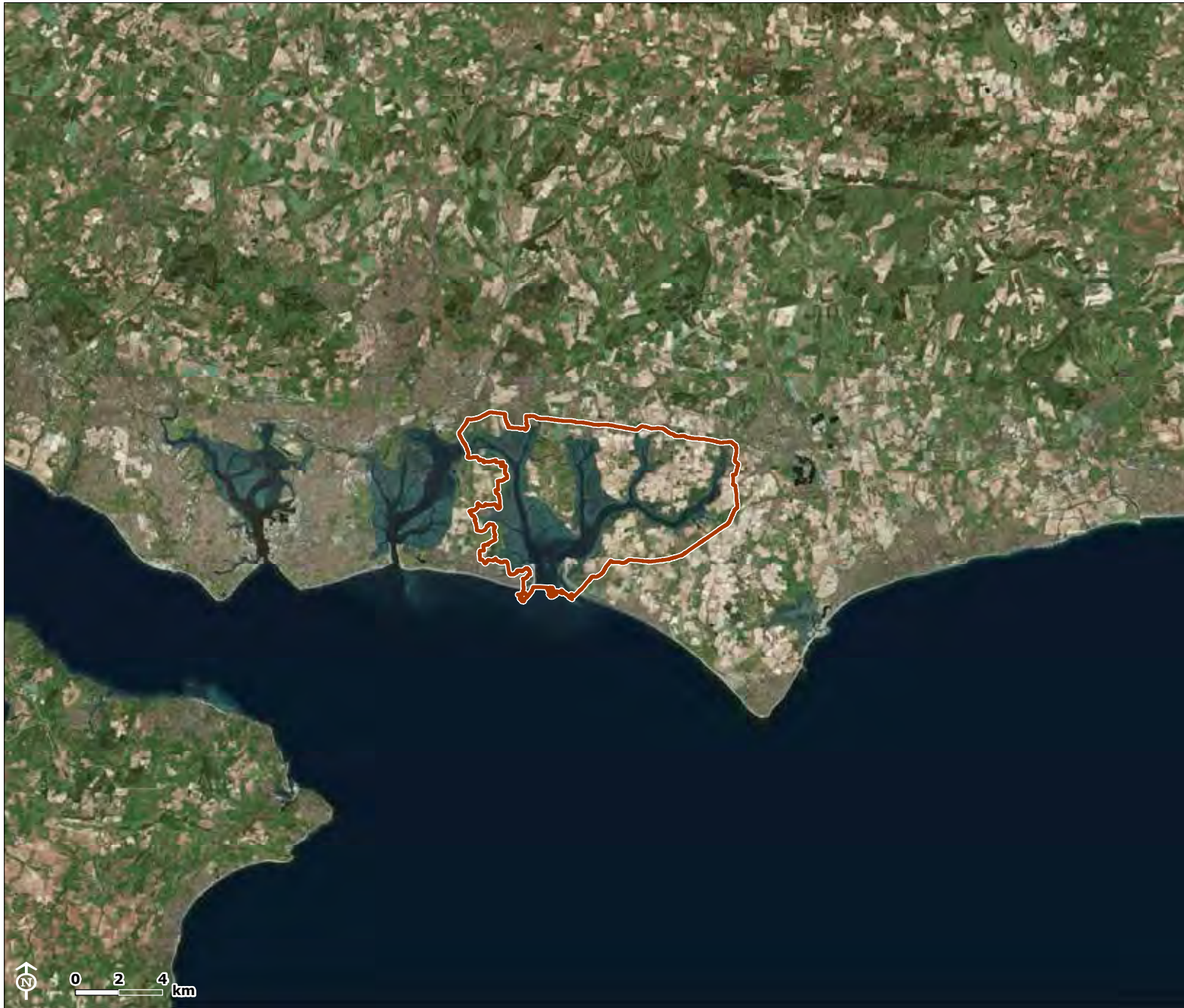
Satellite Image of AONB

 Chichester Harbour AONB

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000




© Natural England copyright 2018.
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



Map Q

Satellite Image of Setting of AONB

 Chichester Harbour AONB

Map Scale @ A4: 1:250,000



© Natural England copyright 2019.
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Acknowledgements

Independent Assessments



The independent assessments of the Chichester Harbour Management Plan (2019-2024), Third Review, were prepared and published by Craggatak consulting in 2019. These entailed an Equalities Impact Assessment, a bespoke Sustainability Appraisal, and an outline Habitat Regulations Assessment. The assessments are available to download from the Conservancy's website.

Landscape Character Assessment



The independent Landscape Character Assessment for Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was prepared and published by Chris Blandford Associates in 2019. The Landscape Character Assessment is available to download from the Conservancy's website.

State of the AONB Report / Maps



The independent Chichester Harbour State of the AONB Report was prepared and published by Land Use Consultants (LUC) in 2018. The Report is available to download from the Conservancy's website. The suite of maps in the Chichester Harbour Management Plan (2019-2024), Third Review, were also prepared by LUC

Chartered Body



The Landscape Institute is the chartered body for the landscape profession that aims to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and built environment for the public benefit. It's membership includes all landscape practitioners, typically landscape scientists, planners, architects, managers and designers. Craggatak Consulting, LUC and Chris Blandford Associates are all affiliated with the Landscape Institute.

National Association of AONBs



The National Association of AONBs aims to: promote the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty including the physical, natural, cultural and built environment; to advance the education, understanding and appreciation of the public of natural beauty; and to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of those organisations promoting or representing AONBs.

Natural England



Natural England is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It is responsible for land, flora and fauna, freshwater and marine environments, geology and soils, and has a remit to help people enjoy, understand and access the natural environment. Natural England has the power to designate AONBs and National Parks.

Local Organisations



Chichester Harbour Conservancy is grateful for the ongoing support from Chichester Harbour Federation, the Friends of Chichester Harbour and Chichester Harbour Trust.

Contributing Photographers

Chichester Harbour Conservancy would like to thank the following photographers for contributing pictures used in this Management Plan. Each photograph is © of the respective photographer / owner.

Alison Parsons (page 79); Barbara Anne Morrison Wise (page 27); Clare Stent (page 18); Final Straw Solent (page 53); Jake Jacobs (page 38, cattle); John Tweddell (page 51); Judith Lion (page 77); Matt Simmons (page 40, harbour (common) seals); Paul Adams (pages 1, 8, 12, 13, 14, 25, 29, 31, 26, 36, 37, 45, 46, 49, 78, 83, 84, 87 and 88); Peter Arnold (pages 26, 32, 38, 43, 48 and 76); Peter Ayling (page 60); Peter Trimming (page 82); the RSPB (page 40, dunlin); Stephen Dean (page 28); Surfdomo (page 54); Terry Heathcote (page 30); Trevor Davies (page 57), and Wendy Chalk (page 73).

All uncredited photographs are © Chichester Harbour Conservancy, taken by existing or former employees, or by other photographers who do not wish to be credited. All efforts have been made by Chichester Harbour Conservancy to ensure the credits for photographic content used in the Management Plan is accurate.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy



Chichester Harbour Conservancy

The Harbour Office,
Itchenor, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 7AW
T: 01243 512301 E: info@conservancy.co.uk





HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	23 April 2019
Title:	Recycling Infrastructure
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: James Potter

Tel: 01962 845487

Email: james.potter@hants.gov.uk

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That, based on the initial project appraisal outlined in this report, approval is given to commission Veolia UK Ltd., the County Council's appointed waste contractor, to develop detailed designs for a proposed new Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), to enable a full business case to be prepared.
- 1.2 That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to make all necessary arrangements to complete a full business case for a proposed MRF including pre-application discussions with the Planning Authority and discussions with Veolia UK Ltd.
- 1.3 That a further report on the full business case for the proposed MRF be prepared and brought forward to a future decision day at the earliest opportunity.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval to commission Veolia to undertake detailed design work to consider feasibility for a new MRF on land in Eastleigh, to process a wider range of recyclable materials. This information will help inform the options going forward for the future provision of waste recycling infrastructure in Hampshire. The funding for the commission of the detailed design will be drawn from existing resources.
- 2.2. The paper also sets out;
 - the current arrangements for household waste management in Hampshire;
 - the drivers for change, such as Hampshire's overall recycling performance and the Government's recently published Resources and Waste Strategy and associated consultation documents; and
 - next steps to be undertaken prior to the presentation of a final business case.

3. Current Arrangements

- 3.1. Hampshire County Council, as a waste disposal authority (WDA), has a statutory duty for the disposal of municipal waste arisings in Hampshire. In order to fulfil this function, it has, in conjunction with its waste disposal partners, the unitary authorities of Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council, entered into a waste disposal service contract (now extended to 2030) and a contract for the management of 26 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) (to 2030), both of which have been awarded to Veolia UK.
- 3.2. Prior to the commencement of the contract all 14 waste authorities of Hampshire (Disposal and Collection), along with Veolia, became members of the Project Integra partnership established in the mid-1990s to deliver an integrated waste management service in the county.
- 3.3. The Waste Disposal Service Contract (WDSC) with Veolia is a Design, Build and Maintain, as well as a Service contract, that required the provision of the necessary infrastructure at the outset. The joint working arrangements put in place through the Project Integra partnership, enabled the County Council to include recycling infrastructure within the remit of the WDSC, even though recycling activities are, in the main, the responsibility of Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs).
- 3.4. As a result of this approach, investment was made into a suite of infrastructure, which consists of:
 - 3 Energy Recovery Facilities (ERFs);
 - 2 Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs);
 - 2 Composting Facilities;
 - 10 Transfer Stations; and
 - 26 Household Waste Recycling Centres (including the Unitaries).

4. Drivers for Change

- 4.1. The original driver for change was that Hampshire's Recycling Performance, which is a combination of that of the Waste Collection Partners and the HWRCs, has plateaued in recent years.
- 4.2. There is a strong political desire within Project Integra to be able to expand the range of materials collected as part of the kerbside collections to include plastic packaging (also known as Pots, Tubs & Trays (PTT)) and cartons.
- 4.3. Modelling of waste growth resulting from population and housing growth also identified a potential £20million cost exposure to the County Council if the partnership's recycling performance could not be significantly improved as well as an erosion of capacity in the existing ERFs resulting from potentially recyclable material being disposed of in the residual waste stream.

4.4. In December 2018 the Government published a new Resources & Waste Strategy for England¹, and the subsequent consultations have strongly signalled that the existing waste services in Hampshire will not be sustainable. The key possible outcomes for local authorities are:

- National Recycling targets of 55% by 2025; 60% by 2030; 65% by 2035;
- A consistent set of dry mixed recyclables to be collected at the kerbside;
- Separate kerbside food waste collections;
- Improved working relationships between local authorities – including two tier structures;
- Maintain the quality and extent of local authority collections – potential requirement for free green waste collections;
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – Producers to pay “full net cost recovery” of packaging waste; and
- A deposit return scheme for beverage containers.

4.5. Submissions to the consultations are required by 13 May 2019 however it will be later in the year before Government publishes the results and its response to them which should provide more certainty on the direction it plans to take.

5. Business Case for a new MRF

5.1. As set out in the Executive Member for Environment and Transport decision paper in November 2017, the County Council has been working with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association (HIOWLGA) Chief Executives to consider the options for delivery of infrastructure to enable a wider range of materials to be captured at the kerbside and recycled.

5.2. On 28 March 2018, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced the intention to introduce a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for beverage containers as part of a forthcoming Waste Strategy for England. It was unknown at the time whether the proposed DRS would cover all or some of the plastic, metal and glass drinks containers. It was also unknown as to whether the containers included as part of the DRS were to be limited to those used “on the go” or not. With this uncertainty it was not possible to identify the most appropriate option to pursue at that stage and so the project was paused until there was further clarity.

5.3. The publication of the consultation on Consistency, one of the four consultations published by Government as a result of the Resources and Waste Strategy, has strongly indicated the direction of travel for increasing recycling performance. It proposes the collection from the kerbside of a

1

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765914/resources-waste-strategy-dec-2018.pdf

standardised set of recyclable materials alongside weekly food waste collections and a proposal for a free fortnightly garden waste collection.

5.4. The consultation also sets out the Government's preference for the type and frequency of kerbside collection services, as follows:

- Residual waste collections (minimum frequency of fortnightly);
- Separate kerbside collection of Dry Recyclables (weekly);
- Food waste collections (weekly); and
- Free Garden Waste Collections (fortnightly).

5.5. Whilst still subject to the consultation responses it is recognised that the quality benefits that kerbside separation of dry recyclables can offer is compelling, e.g. potentially 0% contamination as opposed to an average of 15% contamination found in co-mingled collections; as well as reduced costs associated with the removal of the requirement for MRFs. It is therefore anticipated that this method will become the default collection methodology. However, the transitioning of Local Authorities currently providing alternative collection arrangements i.e. co-mingled, as in Hampshire, will take some time as current contractual arrangements, be they collection or processing, conclude.

5.6. The proposal to continue to develop the business case for the new MRF is being taken in recognition of uncertainty regarding the final outcome of the government consultations and how these will impact on Local Authorities, both financially and in terms of the services that are provided to the public.

5.7. There was a desire amongst some Hampshire waste collection authorities that glass be included in a revised co-mingled specification as this would reduce collection costs. Accepting glass at a new MRF would result in a significant additional cost exposure for the County Council as the glass entering the MRF would, mixed with the other dry mixed recyclables, be liable for a per tonne gate fee, as opposed to the relatively small handling fee incurred when it is handled and exported to market directly from the network of transfer stations. It is also widely accepted that co-mingling of glass can have a negative impact on quality and available end markets, both for itself and other materials, particularly for fibre materials such as paper and cardboard. These factors have contributed to the decision not to include glass within any revised MRF specification. This means that the capacity required for any new infrastructure is reduced by the exclusion of significant tonnage of glass, estimated at around 40,000 tonnes that is potentially available for capture in Hampshire.

6. Financial Impacts

6.1. The cost of the commission for Veolia to undertake the detailed design work is up to £60,000, to be funded from existing resources, and will provide the full cost and benefits of a new MRF which will give the level of information required for a future decision on recycling infrastructure.

- 6.2. As well as the need to improve recycling performance by increasing the range of materials that can be accepted in the kerbside recycling stream, this project will deliver a £3million contribution to the County Council's £140million Transformation to 2019 austerity savings programme. Whilst the delays in delivering the saving associated with this project can be met from the Department's Cost of Change fund, these savings are still very much required.
- 6.3. As part of the Transformation to 2021 programme the County Council has an overall savings target of £80 million and the Waste and Resource Management service will have a part to play in the departmental target of £11.8 million.
- 6.4. Officers have been working with Veolia to develop working proposals for a new MRF. This has included:
- The estimation of the costs associated with building the new facility, both the civil engineering costs for the building and the processing technology;
 - Consideration of the potential costs/savings associated with the necessary contract variations to accommodate possible changes to the contracted service; and
 - The implications on flows of monies to and from the County Council and its disposal and collection partners.
- 6.5. All of these elements will have impacts on the final business case and are needed in order to support decision making with regards to the infrastructure for managing recycling in Hampshire.
- 6.6. The working proposals have identified that this project will deliver a saving based on the current service and the projected costs for waste disposal in Hampshire over the coming years.
- 6.7. Understanding the full detailed costs will enable the County Council to consider all potential options for recycling infrastructure in the context of having greater certainty about the Government's direction and how this will impact Local Authority services.

7. Consultation and Equalities

- 7.1. This proposal is being progressed on behalf of the three Waste Disposal Authorities in Hampshire but does not impact on pre-existing service delivery and therefore no consultation is required.
- 7.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out that demonstrates that this proposal has no impact on groups with protected characteristics.

8. Next Steps

- 8.1. The County Council, whilst continuing to seek to develop a business case for a new MRF that enables its partners to expand the range of kerbside recyclables they collect, alongside alternative options for recycling

infrastructure, will also be working to better understand the likely direction of travel being proposed through the Government's current consultations.

- 8.2. This is to ensure that the County Council chooses the correct option for Hampshire residents in the long term rather than invest in a option that, whilst it may have a stand alone business case, jeopardises the County Council's and its partners' ability to leverage the external funding that is being proposed under the Government's Extended Producer Responsibility proposals or could be eroded by the implementation of the Deposit Return Scheme for beverage containers that could remove from the kerbside recycling system two significant material streams (metal cans and plastic bottles) that, whilst of relatively low tonnage, have substantial value in terms of the income they generate.
- 8.3. In light of this the County Council will explore, through existing partner groups, the appetite for change amongst our partners in light of the Government's proposals in terms of collection consistency, which includes not only a preferred method of dry recyclable collections but also proposed new burdens for Local Authorities in the form of mandatory weekly food waste collections by 2023 and possibly mandatory free garden waste collections.
- 8.4. The County Council will continue to work with Veolia to develop the final detailed design for a new MRF and to explore ways to further improve their indicative offer, so that evidence-based decisions can be made when the final business case is presented.
- 8.5. It is also important to understand any potential implications associated with the change of use of the proposed MRF site in Eastleigh. It currently has the benefit of a waste related planning permission for an Advanced Thermal Treatment process and an anaerobic digester. In order to ascertain any implications resulting from this change of use a pre-application planning consultation will be entered into.

9. Conclusion

- 9.1. The case for extending and renewing recycling capability is clear, however more work is required on the design, costs and implications of the new MRF option in order to complete a full business case to be able to evaluate this opportunity.
- 9.2. However, it is also recognised that this project may be impacted by the direction of the Government's recent Resources and Waste Strategy and subsequent consultations. The County Council will continue to explore a range of options, including progressing towards a full business case for a MRF.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	no
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	no

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
Title – Waste Strategy http://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s8517/DD%20Item%201%20Report.pdf	<u>Date</u> 17 Nov 2017
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u> HM Government - Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England - December 2018	<u>Date</u> December 2018

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

It is considered that this proposal has no impact on any of the protected characteristics. This proposal is to deliver detailed design proposals to inform future decision-making regarding waste infrastructure in Hampshire and will be subject to further decisions as well as being impacted by possible Government legislation which is subject to consultation currently.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. None

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

This proposal is to deliver detailed design proposals to inform future decision-making regarding recycling infrastructure in Hampshire, so it has no direct impact on the County Council's carbon footprint or energy consumption.

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

The proposal to deliver detailed designs to inform future decision-making contains no proposals that will require adaptation to climate change and its longer term impacts.

This page is intentionally left blank

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	23 April 2019
Title:	Glass Contract Update
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Sam Horne

Tel: 01962 832268

Email: sam.horne@hants.gov.uk

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. That the approval given by the Executive Member for Environment and Transport in September 2017 with respect to contractual arrangements for glass processing is amended, such that the service is delivered through the existing Waste Disposal Service Contract with Veolia, and the duration for contractual arrangements is consequently extended to 31 December 2030, with revised income estimates of £9.51 million, of which £713,000 relates to Hampshire County Council.
- 1.2. That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport and the Head of Legal Services, to make all necessary arrangements to vary the associated partnering agreement with Project Integra partners.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The purpose of this paper is to outline the rationale for bringing glass processing into the waste disposal service contract and highlight the financial implications.
- 2.2. This paper seeks to:
 - a) Set out the context behind the glass processing contract.
 - b) Set out the reasons for moving glass processing into the waste disposal service contract (WDSC).
 - c) Outline the financial impacts of the change.

3. Contextual information

- 3.1. This paper seeks to extend both the timeframe and value of the glass processing contract in light of the move to take up the option that exists within the WDSC with Veolia to bring that material into the contract. This move means

that the previously approved duration and value are not sufficient for the new arrangement and the paper outlines what changes are sought.

- 3.2. In September 2017 a paper was brought to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport to procure a 5-year concession contract for glass processing with a total anticipated income of £3.96 million over the duration of the term, of which £297,000 related to Hampshire County Council.
- 3.3. Prior to the procurement process, a market engagement exercise was undertaken, which identified potential suppliers and sought their input to help inform the contract specification to provide the best chance of attracting a number of bids.
- 3.4. Despite this, only two tenders were received, one of which was non-compliant as it did not conform with the pricing schedule. This was in spite of the fact that during the market engagement all potential suppliers were asked to comment on the proposed pricing mechanism and all agreed with the approach.
- 3.5. The only compliant tender was evaluated against the criteria set, and it met the minimum standard required. However, the level of income proposed was 56% less than had been achieved under the previous contract, despite the market prices for glass remaining the same.
- 3.6. Project Integra partners were presented with the commercial implications of entering into the contract and approved the proposal to bring glass into the long term Waste Disposal Service Contract with Veolia which runs until December 2030.
- 3.7. As set out in the September 2017 paper, the WDSC already envisaged that glass would form part of that contract and that it would only require a deed of variation to make this arrangement.
- 3.8. A deed of variation has been agreed and entered into with Veolia, and each of the waste disposal authorities, Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council and Portsmouth City Council.
- 3.9. The Waste Disposal Service Contract is due to come to an end on 31 December 2030, and the glass processing element will mirror this end date.

4. Finance

- 4.1. The terms of the agreement with Veolia for glass processing within the WDSC mirror those of the previous contract in that Veolia are responsible for marketing the material and receive a percentage of the income with the Authorities receiving the remaining share.
- 4.2. The income share is done based on a sliding scale which incentivises Veolia to seek to achieve a higher price for the glass as this increases the share that they receive. The income values estimated are at least equivalent to those achieved under the previous contract.
- 4.3. The value of the contract overall, subject to market fluctuations, is £9.5 million over the duration of the contract. However, the majority of this relates to material that the Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) collect through their bring banks and kerbside collections. The County Council has glass banks at each of

its HWRCs which it is estimated will generate income of £713,000 over the contract term.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. In Hampshire glass is collected by each of the WCAs either from the kerbside, bring banks or both. This material is delivered into the waste disposal infrastructure and then from there on to be processed and recycled.
- 5.2. A partnering agreement is used to set out the way in which the glass should be managed and delivered as well as the financial arrangements which are managed by the County Council with income then being distributed to each of the WCAs on a quarterly basis, based on the tonnage of glass they have delivered.
- 5.3. A partnering agreement has been drafted and completed under delegated authority in line with the previous procurement approval. This was drafted by Hampshire County Council and signed by all of the Project Integra Partner authorities and will need to be varied to take account of the revised arrangements.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	no
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	no
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	no

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Processing of Glass Services Procurement	19/09/2017
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
N/A	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

The decision to procure a new glass processing contract has no impact upon frontline services provided by Hampshire County Council or the District Councils. It will not affect the glass recycling services already provided at kerbside, bring sites, and Household Waste Recycling Centres. The procurement will have a neutral impact on groups with protected characteristics.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. No impacts identified.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

A new contract will allow for glass collected in Hampshire to continue to be recycled, which has a positive impact on carbon footprint.

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

There is no known potential adverse impact of climate change on this service.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	23 April 2019
Title:	Winchester Movements Strategy
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Frank Baxter

Tel: 01962 846819

Email: frank.baxter@hants.gov.uk

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport notes the findings of the recent consultation, outlined in this report, and formally approves the Winchester Movement Strategy.
- 1.2. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport authorises work on the next stage of scheme planning and development works, subject to securing financial resources to complete the work, including a contribution from Winchester City Council.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 On 19 September 2017, the Executive Member for Environment and Transport agreed to develop a new City of Winchester Movement strategy and authorised officers to undertake local engagement. Since then, the County Council, in partnership with the City Council, has developed a robust evidence base and transport modelling tools and undertaken extensive local engagement and consultation on an emerging plan. Having undertaken this work and taken into account the results of technical work and consultation findings, this report seeks to agree a Movement Strategy for the City of Winchester. It also makes clear what resources will be required to begin developing and delivering the proposals within it.

3. Contextual information

- 3.1 A new strategy for the City of Winchester is needed to address the current and future transport challenges facing the City. The past strategy involved implementing almost 2,000 park and ride spaces alongside a package of local improvements at a cost of over £20million. This has helped Winchester City continue to grow, but the park and ride spaces are now nearing operational capacity. City Centre car parks are also near full occupancy at peak times. Traffic levels in the town centre are dominating the streetscape and are the primary cause of the designated Air Quality Management Area

that broadly encompasses the whole one way system. At the same time, there are new pressures or changes likely to impact on the transport infrastructure which need to be planned for. They include:

- moving the leisure centre from River Park to Bar End;
- the Station Quarter Scheme, which includes plans for a large new grade “A” office;
- the City Centre Regeneration proposals;
- the currently adopted Winchester District Local Plan development sites and an emerging Local Plan 2036;
- natural growth in many large existing institutions such as the university;
- the changing role of the High Street; and
- planned Highways England improvement to Junction 9 of the M3.

3.2 The process of developing this new strategy has followed several stages. Initially this involved establishing a clear view of what outcomes were most important. Following local engagement with the community, which elicited more than 2,000 responses, these were refined to 3. They are:

- Reduce city centre traffic;
- Support healthier lifestyle choices; and
- Invest in infrastructure to support sustainable growth.

3.3 At the same time as engaging with the community, an extensive evidence base has been collected to help understand the transport issues and challenges better. Some of this was used to build a local traffic model which simulates traffic conditions and has also allowed technical assessment to be done on possible solutions and options.

3.4 The outputs of this work and further engagement work (including community group workshops) were used to develop an emerging strategy, which was consulted on between November 2018 and January 2019. This consultation received over 800 replies. During the consultation, drop in sessions for organisations that wished to express any views were also held. The results suggest there is a high level of consensus with the outcomes and the strategy approach.

3.5 The strategy itself is relatively short in nature in order that it remains strategic and relatively easy to understand for what is a fairly complex subject. As such it seeks to establish a strategic framework within which much more detailed development work can now follow. However, it is supported by an extensive list of supporting information which serves to back up the strategy. These are publicly available on the Winchester Movement Strategy Website and include:

- The initial engagement findings;
- A summary report of the evidence base;
- A technical modelling report; and

- The results of the consultation findings.
- 3.6 The framework of the strategy is quite simple in design. It reflects the fact that the dominating factor causing peak hour traffic is car based commuting. For this reason, an important priority for the strategy is to increase the number of park and ride spaces and support park and ride use by making park and ride bus services more reliable and faster. Modelling work undertaken suggests a potential demand for new Park and Ride provision could be as high as 3,000 spaces, with roughly one third of this demand coming from the north. In association with some tactical changes to the city centre one-way system, the evidence base and traffic modelling work suggests that vehicle traffic in the City Centre could be reduced by as much as a quarter if all measures in the strategy are delivered. This gives some confidence that the strategy may be effective in achieving the desired outcomes, including improved air quality. However, as with all modelling work it is only a simulation and should not be taken at face value, as significant further detailed work is needed to make such traffic reduction a reality. It is also clear from this work that transport measures alone will not achieve the desired outcomes and that complementary land use planning, and parking management and enforcement are vitally important – as is the delivery of the Highways England improvement planned to Junction 9 of the M3.
- 3.7 The strategy includes an action plan covering the next 3 years in some detail, and beyond this it is indicative. The action plan categorises types of improvement needed and sets out the relative priorities of what is most needed and in what order. There is still much detail to be worked up on the schemes and projects within it. This plan requires resources to take the schemes and projects needed to the next stage of development. It also sets out what complementary work is needed to support it, such as the development of a parking strategy, and lists implications for other strategic plans such as the emerging local plan.
- 3.8 The consultation results highlighted a desire from many local groups to make some changes now and deliver some “quick wins”. The strategy has identified that true transformation will come from delivering a step change in park and ride and a significantly modified public realm around the one-way system, and that this will take time to plan, secure funding for, and deliver. The transformational elements of the strategy are not “quick wins”.
- 3.9 The strategy proposes to combine the resources available to both authorities in a coordinated way to make best use of what is available to the public sector. This will allow the strategy and action plan to include a number of schemes that appear to be deliverable and affordable in the short term, and which would complement broader aims of the strategy and yet have no critical dependencies. The schemes proposed have been largely informed by the comments made by respondents in relation to walking and cycling projects. At this stage they do not include a major investment in public realm enhancements or significant modification to the one way system. This is simply because the technical work undertaken has indicated that such schemes need to be delivered alongside park and ride capacity

enhancements. The key elements of the action plan recommended to be taken forward in the next three years are:

- To scope out and develop a public realm masterplan covering the City Centre;
- To undertake a park and ride study which will focus on identifying locations, costs and deliverability issues;
- To undertake a detailed study of bus priority measures;
- To develop a prioritised cycle plan and some pedestrian and cycle enhancements; and
- To conduct an enhanced integrated planning and parking strategy review.

Each of these elements of the strategy will entail specific actions for implementation, including approval of project appraisals and the initiation of legal processes, many of which will be covered in, or the subject of, future reports.

4. Finance

- 4.1. Very few of the schemes identified in the strategy currently have funding in place. The strategy is intended to help the County and City Councils prioritise local resources and bid for external funding. The current funding horizon is particularly uncertain, as the current Government spending review cycle is due to end soon and another about to start. However, opportunities will arise, and the County and City Council's track record of accessing funding is good, particularly where there are well developed strategies and plans in place. Current options being investigated include EM3 LEP growth deal funding and the recently announced High Street Fund administered by Government.
- 4.2. The first step in this process requires the action plan identified in the strategy to be resourced to allow detailed planning to take place on prioritised schemes and projects. Scheme development work identified in the action plan is currently estimated at costing a total of £500,000 over the next three years. The County Council and City Council will both be seeking to agree funding to undertake this work from 2019-20 via the normal budget setting processes.
- 4.3. Schemes identified in the strategy for delivery in the short term will be added to the existing highways capital programme following the outcome of scheme design and consultation work. The financial implications of scheme delivery will be covered in other reports and project appraisals.
- 4.4. The advancement of this strategy and action plan will be dependent on collaborative working, and as it is in part intended to mitigate future development, it may be possible to secure some improvements when new development schemes come forward using Community Infrastructure Levy funds collected by the City Council, subject to proposals meeting the requirements of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations.

5. Consultation and Equalities

- 5.1. No impact on people with protected characteristics has been identified from this decision, but any transport schemes that arise as an outcome from the Strategy would be subject to their own Equalities Impact Assessment.
- 5.2. The detailed results of the initial engagement process and then a further round of consultation are available on the Winchester movement strategy website. Consultation on the emerging strategy resulted in over 800 replies. It revealed a good level of support for nine of the ten measures proposed within the emerging Strategy with over 70% of respondents in agreement that the Strategy should aim to:
 - ensure a more integrated approach to transport/ land-use planning;
 - improve management of deliveries to the City Centre;
 - increase park and ride capacity;
 - implement bus priority measures on key routes into the City Centre;
 - reallocate road space to improve pedestrian/ cyclist provision;
 - introduce measures to help manage traffic demand; and
 - enhance public realm in the City Centre.
- 5.3. Around 60% of respondents were in favour of proposals to negotiate a new partnership with bus operators across the City and enhance strategic road network capacity.
- 5.4. Opinion was divided regarding the potential introduction of a charging zone in Winchester, with 46% agreeing and 41% disagreeing that this should be considered if other options fail to achieve the required reduction in traffic.
- 5.5. Some respondents felt that the final Strategy could go further, with 435 additional options proposed, encompassing improvements to pedestrian and cycling provision, traffic flow, Park and Ride, local bus services and parking.
- 5.6. Around two-thirds of individuals who responded felt that, should the emerging Movement Strategy be adopted, it would have a positive impact on their journeys into / around Winchester and their quality of life. Many respondents highlighted improved air quality, reduced congestion, and improved cycling provision as key drivers of this.
- 5.7. Over half of responding groups/businesses/organisations felt that the Strategy would have a positive impact, compared to 13% who felt that the impact would be negative.
- 5.8. Whilst respondents recognised the potential of the emerging Strategy, feedback suggests further reassurance is needed to enable people to feel confident that the proposals, once implemented, will have the desired impacts and meet Winchester's future travel and transport needs.
- 5.9. The consultation and technical work have informed the final strategy. Together they confirm that there is no overall support for area wide charging proposals. The technical work also indicates that the traffic reduction required, and the associated air quality enhancement, may be achievable without such schemes. It does, however, require car parking supply, location, charging policy, and management to complement the provision of a

step change increase in park and ride provision. In addition, the action plan proposes work on a new Winchester parking strategy.

- 5.10. The consultation results highlighted a desire for more integrated transport and land use planning. The joint development and adoption of the movement strategy is a significant step in bringing about integration. The timing of the strategy just before the City Council begin local plan work means that the strategy outcomes and measures in it will inform and influence the strategy local plan.
- 5.11. The strategy has also been endorsed by Winchester City Council at its Cabinet meeting on 26 March 2019, having previously been through its scrutiny process. This means that the strategy will have an influential role to play in shaping future city projects such as the new local plan, the Central Winchester regeneration scheme, and its air quality action plan for the city centre.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u> City of Winchester Movement Strategy	<u>Date</u> 19 September 2017
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
The initial engagement findings	All documents are publicly available on the Winchester movement strategy web site
A summary report of the evidence base	
A technical modelling report	
The Emerging Transport Strategy	
The results of the consultation findings	
The Revised Transport Strategy	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

No impact on people with protected characteristics has been identified from this decision, but any transport schemes that arise as an outcome from the Strategy would be subject to their own Equalities Impact Assessment.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. No Impact.

3. Climate Change:

a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

No Impact.

b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No Impact.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	23 April 2019
Title:	Government Waste Strategy Consultation Responses
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Paul Laughlin

Tel: 01962 832283

Email: paul.laughlin@hants.gov.uk

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport notes the content and potential impacts of the Government's four waste consultations as set out in this report and endorses the key principles in relation to each consultation to form a basis for the County Council's detailed response.
- 1.2. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport approves the next steps for submission, set out in this report, to include a written letter from the Leader of the County Council to the Government setting out the key principles.
- 1.3. That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to make all necessary arrangements to approve the detailed responses to be submitted to Government.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an introduction to the major waste consultations launched by the Government in February 2019, and to set out the County Council's broad position in relation to the key issues contained therein ahead of submitting a formal written response to each consultation in May 2019.
- 2.2. This paper seeks to
 - summarise the broad themes arising in the consultations;
 - consider the potential impact that the proposed outcomes from the consultations may have on the performance of the County Council and its waste management partners; and
 - request approval from the Executive Member for Environment and Transport of the County Council's overarching position on each consultation ahead of submitting formal written responses.

3. Contextual information

- 3.1. In December 2018, the Government published a major Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS) for England. The strategy set out how Defra proposes to preserve material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency

and moving towards a circular economy. It also pledged to minimise the damage caused to our natural environment by reducing and managing waste safely and carefully, and by tackling waste crime. Building upon heightened public interest in waste through issues raised by the BBC's *Blue Planet* series, the RWS summarises longer-term policy direction in line with Defra's 25 Year Environment Plan, including the elimination of avoidable plastic waste, doubling resource productivity, and eliminating avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050.

- 3.2. Following this, four major consultations were launched on 18 February 2019 to ascertain opinion on some of the major themes. Three of the consultations were published by Defra, and the fourth by HM Treasury. The consultation period lasts for 12 weeks.
- 3.3. The timetable for delivery of many of the potential initiatives set out in both the RWS and these consultations would see legislation starting to be tabled in 2021/22 and potential roll out of initiatives from 2023. Each of the consultations interacts with the others and should be seen as one package of measures to deliver the Government's desired outcomes.
- 3.4. These consultations represent a potential once-in-a-generation shift in waste and resource management. Across the four consultations, over 300 detailed questions are posed, a significant proportion of which are related to Local Authority activity. There is a significant opportunity for the County Council to use these consultations to influence the delivery of an efficient, cost effective service to the public in a financially sustainable manner and set the strategic direction for managing waste in the next decade in a more consistent manner not just locally, but nationally.

4. The consultations and the potential impacts on the County Council

4.1. *Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections (England)*

a) Key proposals include:

- Local authorities and other waste operators to collect a core set of materials for recycling (glass bottles/jars, paper and card, plastic bottles, plastic pots/tubs/trays, tins and cans) and seek greater separation of materials to improve quality;
- Local authorities to provide a separate weekly food waste collection from households;
- consideration of whether local authorities should provide free garden waste collections to households;
- views sought on consistent frequency of collections and bin colours, statutory guidance on minimum service standards and new indicators and metrics for local authorities;
- promotion of greater joint working across council areas and between different tiers, identifying the benefits and barriers and where Government can assist; and
- businesses and other organisations that produce municipal waste to adopt the same core set of materials and improve their reporting and data capture on recycling performance.

- b) There is recognition that the initiatives above will place additional burdens on local authorities. The consultations indicate that additional resources will be provided by Government, in line with the New Burdens doctrine, to meet any 'new net costs' arising from the policies when implemented, however it is noted that minimal detail is provided at this stage as to how this might work so this remains a concern for the County Council and its partners.

County Council commentary

- c) The County Council is supportive of consistency measures for household recycling as this should reduce confusion amongst the public and improve getting the right thing in the right bin.
- d) Changes to the types of waste collected at the kerbside will result in the need to vary the current Waste Disposal Service Contract (WDSC) as well as requiring changes to the existing waste disposal infrastructure.
- e) Waste composition analysis shows that there is significant dry mixed recyclable, glass and garden waste in the residual stream that currently goes for energy recovery which, when added to the potential removal of a proportion of food waste, would lead to a significant shift not only in performance, but also how materials are managed, for example with material moving from the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) network to the kerbside in the case of green waste collections.
- f) There will be significant implications for Waste Collection Authorities in terms of the services they have to provide and how they are provided, which will in turn affect the waste disposal infrastructure. This will require new markets for materials to be sought and reviews of waste flows so that these can be managed to suit revised collection frequencies.
- g) A phased approach to delivery would be necessary to take account of the contractual implications of the existing and varied collection systems and frequencies which exist across the county.
- h) The County Council is supportive of more consistent collections to reduce confusion among residents and, if properly and effectively communicated, increase performance in terms of recycling. Legislative change will require a contractual change which will alter the costs associated with the delivery of the waste disposal function. It is not known at present how 'new net costs' will be covered, and this will determine what the financial impact is on the County Council of any changes, particularly in terms of cost related to any contract variations required.

4.2. Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

- a) The aims of the proposed Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) include;
- reducing the amount of littering of drinks packaging;
 - boosting recycling performance by facilitating enhanced quality and quantity of collected materials; and

- promoting recycling through clearer labelling and consumer messaging.
- b) A deposit would be added to the price of certain in-scope drinks containers at the point of purchase which would be redeemed when consumers return their empty containers to designated return points. The scheme is proposed to include PET and HDPE plastic bottles, which make up around 97% of plastic drinks bottles, steel and aluminium cans, and glass bottles, covering a broad range of beverages¹ including water, soft drinks, juice, and alcohol.
- c) There are two DRS options under consideration;
- 'All-in' – any container would have the deposit included, regardless of size or whether sold singly or as part of a multipack; and
 - 'On the go' – restricted to containers less than 750ml in size and sold in single format.

The consultation also considers whether disposable cups should be included in the scope of a DRS.

County Council commentary

- d) The key impact on Hampshire of a DRS is how it changes where waste goes and potentially who collects it. The majority of the materials in scope (plastic bottles, cans and glass) are already collected freely by District Councils and have a material value associated which is used by local authorities to off-set the costs of managing and disposing of household waste. Hampshire authorities have developed collection systems to target these materials, investing significantly in collection, transport and sorting infrastructure to do so. Introducing a new system targeting the same materials has implications as to what happens to that infrastructure from a financial and contractual perspective. Consideration will also need to be given as to the role that all Hampshire authorities will play in terms of providing and managing deposit points and how this would impact on existing systems.
- e) The County Council also has concerns about how such a process may be delivered. An 'on the go' system raises the potential for consumer confusion as it would apply only to specific container sizes or those sold as single format. For example, potentially rules out flexibility for families purchasing multi-packs for days out as the individual bottles would not be eligible to be returned for a deposit. Additionally, whilst the aims to reduce littering are to be commended, the scheme does nothing to tackle more prevalent and more damaging forms of litter such as fast food packaging, crisp packets, smoking-related waste and chewing gum.

¹ All variants of milk and plant based beverages are excluded having been classed as an essential product that is only widely available in containers.

4.3. Reforming the UK packaging producer responsibility system

- a) The aim of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is to ensure that the producers of post-consumer packaging are financially responsible for the material that is placed on the market. It is estimated that the existing system (Packaging Recovery Notes (PRNs)) results in a very limited amount (less than 7%) of support from producers for managing packaging waste, which places unfair burden on local authorities to pay for the cost of disposal. The proposed EPR system under consideration through this consultation aims to achieve 'full net cost recovery' which should cover the cost of collection, recycling, disposal, the clear-up of littered and fly tipped packaging, as well as communications relating to recycling and tackling littering. Materials in scope include paper, card, metal (steel, aluminium, foil), plastic (i.e. PET, HDPE and PP² which includes most bottles as well as a side range of food packaging containers), glass and cartons.
- b) The consultation also seeks views on incentives to encourage producers to design and use packaging that can be readily recycled, and questions whether all producers should be subject to the principles of EPR or whether a certain scale of small business should be exempt. A key aspiration is to ultimately drive unrecyclable plastic packaging out of the market by making it uneconomical to produce. New packaging targets are also proposed, recommending that mandatory labelling is introduced on all packaging to indicate if it is recyclable or not, as well as the amount of, if any, recycled content within it to raise consumer awareness. Consideration is also given to different models for the organisation and governance of a future packaging EPR system to determine how the money should flow through the system, as well as measures to strengthen compliance and enforcement, particularly for packaging waste that is exported for recycling.

County Council commentary

- c) The key area of likely impact for the County Council and the collection authorities in Hampshire is the potential for significant funding to be channelled to local authorities to cover the costs of the packaging material that is collected. As such, there is a need to determine the actual meaning of 'full net cost recovery' and to confirm that it covers all costs to local authorities, not only of recyclable packaging material, but also packaging that cannot be recycled and goes for final disposal, including to Hampshire's energy recovery facilities. Clarity is also needed on requirements for authorities to meet the minimum service requirements in order to receive income.
- d) The County Council notes that there is significant crossover with the proposed DRS with the potential risk for confusion or blurring of responsibilities. Conceivably, a well-managed consistent collection system, coupled with a robust EPR, could achieve the same aims without a need for a DRS.

² Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET), High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE), Polypropylene (PP).

4.4. *Plastic packaging tax*

- a) Plastic packaging is typically only used for a short period of time before being disposed of and accounts for 44% of plastic used in the UK, but 67% of plastic waste. HM Treasury is proposing to introduce a world-leading new tax on plastic packaging that contains less than 30% recycled material. The new tax would be levied on the production and importation of unfilled plastic packaging, set at a rate that provides a clear economic incentive for business to use recycled material in the production of plastic packaging and, in so doing, stimulating greater demand for recycled plastic. The consultation includes questions on defining products within the scope of the tax, the precise point at which the tax is charged and who will be liable to pay, treatment of imports and exports, and how to minimise administrative burdens for the smallest operators.
- b) Clearly this consultation is of primary interest to manufacturers rather than local authorities because the aim is to drive the amount of recycled plastic that is used to create new packaging. However, the greater the amount of recycled content that is required for packaging, the greater the demand for waste plastics, which in turn will help drive investment in processing infrastructure and therefore the market for the secondary materials. This should lead to an increase in the value of the material, ensuring a sustainable market, and help increase the amount of material that can be recycled.

County Council commentary

- c) The County Council is supportive of the proposed financial mechanism in the expectation that it will help to drive producers to both reduce the range of plastic polymers that are used for packaging and, when considered alongside proposals for improved consistency, enable greater capture of materials.
- d) The County Council additionally notes that there is also a potential secondary impact on all businesses in Hampshire, including the County Council as a consumer of both products and services, because a tax on producers of plastic items could affect costs and therefore profit margins.

5. Next steps

- 5.1. Hampshire County Council will be submitting responses to all four consultations ahead of the submission deadline of 12-13 May. Consideration has been given to a wide range of impacts on existing and future waste services within Hampshire, and advice and shared knowledge has been sought with cross-authority networks such as Project Integra³, NAWDO⁴, the LGA⁵ and ADEPT⁶.

³ Hampshire's waste partnership.

⁴ National Association of Waste Disposal Officers.

⁵ Local Government Association

⁶ Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport.

- 5.2. An all Member briefing session was held on 28 February where the four consultations were presented, and views sought on some the of key questions raised by them. Members were asked to vote on which options they favoured and had the opportunity to ask detailed questions about the consultations and their implications.
- 5.3. The Executive Member for Environment and Transport is asked to approve the County Council's position on the key issues as detailed above and authorise the proposed approach for responding to the consultations.
- 5.4. It is also proposed that the Leader of the County Council writes formally to the Government, setting out the County Council's position and any key concerns.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
HM Government - Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England - December 2018	December 2018

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

This decision entails the procedure and approach for a consultation response, and does not itself have a direct impact on any service users.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. It is not anticipated that there will be any impact on crime and disorder.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

As this decision relates to consultation responses there is no direct impact and it is not known at present what impact any future legislative changes will have on waste services.

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

As this decision relates to consultation responses there is no direct impact and it is not known at present what impact any future legislative changes will have on waste services.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	23 April 2019
Title:	Project Appraisal: Jermyns Lane Footway to Braishfield, Romsey
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Brandon Breen

Tel: 01962 846239

Email: brandon.breen@hants.gov.uk

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport approve the Project Appraisal for Jermyns Lane Footway to Braishfield, Romsey, as outlined in this report.
- 1.2 That approval be given to procure and spend and enter into necessary contractual arrangements, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to implement the proposed improvements to Jermyns Lane Footway to Braishfield, Romsey, as set out in this report, at an estimated cost of £450,000, to be funded from developer contributions.
- 1.3 That authority to make the arrangements to implement the scheme, including minor variations to the design or contract, be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide details of the proposed Jermyns Lane footway to Braishfield, as shown in the attached Scheme overview plan in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 A 1.8 metre footway (approximately 800 metres) will be provided in Braishfield Road from the roundabout junction with Jermyns Lane through to the vehicle entrance of the Dog and Crook public house.
- 2.3 A further 3-metre-wide shared use footway (approximately 400 metres in length) will be constructed from the roundabout junction with Braishfield Road/Jermyns Lane to the existing 3-metre-wide footway facility just north of the roundabout junction with Freemantle Road/Braishfield Road. This existing 3 metre wide section (approximately 200 metres in length) will be converted to a shared use facility upon completion of the scheme and will link with the proposed shared use footway.

- 2.4 An uncontrolled tactile paved crossing point will be constructed just south of the Dog and Crook public house car park entrance so that pedestrians can cross from the east side of Braishfield Road and join the existing footway to the north of the car park entrance.
- 2.5 Due to the width of the proposed footway, some areas of the route will require the existing drainage ditch to be culverted/piped in order to adequately disperse surface water from the carriageway/footway.
- 2.6 An option was investigated to provide a section of the footway on the northern side of Jermyns Lane (from the entrance to Sir Harold Hillier's Arboretum and Gardens) and within Hillier's estate, through to the roundabout junction of Jermyns Lane/Braishfield Road, as well as a 300 metre section on the east side of Braishfield Road. However, this was rejected due to the Secretary of State (SoS) Planning Inspectorate rejecting proposals for the existing ROW path 712 to be diverted in line with the new footway proposal. It was also rejected due to the significant amount of vegetation that would need to be cleared, as well as land from Hillier's needing to be dedicated to Hampshire County Council.
- 2.7 The scheme's success will be measured by liaising with Braishfield Parish Council and the Ramblers Association to ascertain their views on the success of the scheme as well as undertaking monitoring of the route.

3. Background

- 3.1 A new housing development on land at Abbotswood, to the northeast of Romsey town, is currently being constructed and will deliver a total of 800 new homes. At the time of writing this report, around 500 properties have been occupied. The development is situated in the Romsey Extra Parish.
- 3.2 As part of the Section 278 works associated with the development, a number of highway improvement schemes that provide traffic management to offset the impact of the additional vehicle movements have either already been completed or are underway. At the Jermyns Lane/Sandy Lane/Braishfield Road junction, a new roundabout has been constructed. This junction upgrade provides pedestrian facilities linking to Braishfield Road footway. To link up the Abbotswood development with Braishfield village, a footway is proposed from the Jermyns Lane/Braishfield Road roundabout junction to Braishfield village.
- 3.3 A specific Section 106 contribution has been agreed to provide a new footway along Braishfield Road in order to link the new housing development at Abbotswood with the local facilities in Braishfield and the Hillier's Arboretum. Initial discussions between the Test Valley Borough Council engineer and Hillier's have indicated that to provide a new footway within the Highway boundary would be difficult given the existing drainage ditch. It was therefore agreed by all parties that the best and most cost-effective option would be to provide a footway within the boundary of the Hillier's estate. Hillier's supported this as they have been looking to divert the existing ROW through their land for security and estate management reasons.

- 3.4 The Secretary of State (SoS) Planning Inspectorate did not confirm the order to divert the RoW 712. This decision was received on 14 November 2017. This scheme will therefore be proceeding with the option to construct the footway on public Highway land only.
- 3.5 The proposed new footway seeks to deliver improved access between the new development at Abbotswood and the Sir Harold Hillier's Arboretum (Sir Harold Hillier Gardens is a charitable trust and the County Council is the sole trustee) and the village of Braishfield. The scheme will, on delivery, provide a continuous pedestrian surfaced route between the emerging new community at Abbotswood and the local facilities/amenities provided in Braishfield Village (2 public houses, a school, village hall, and recreation ground), encouraging sustainable travel choices. The new footway will also provide access to the Hillier's Arboretum (a Site of Importance to Nature Conservation) by providing a footway along Braishfield Road towards Braishfield Village.
- 3.6 Since the original feasibility study of this scheme, a further residential development has since come forward and is currently being progressed on the land at the southern side of Jermyns Lane (known as Ganger Farm) opposite the entrance to Hillier's Gardens. As part of the planning agreement, the developer is required to construct a shared use footpath that is within its land extents and runs parallel with Jermyns Lane from Braishfield Road (just south of the roundabout junction) and the entrance to its site from Jermyns Lane. This path will create further continuity for those pedestrians/cyclists wishing to access Braishfield, Abbotswood or Romsey.
- 3.7 Significant ecological assessments have been undertaken by the County Council's Ecology Team during the detailed design stage, and there has been no evidence of any protected species apart from historical evidence of the presence of Great Crested Newts within the Hillier's Garden/Arboretum land. E-DNA assessments will be required in April 2019, and should this protected species be present, these should provide confirmation. Such confirmation will not be detrimental to the proposed scheme. However, as a formality, a licence will be required from Natural England which will demonstrate how the County Council intends to mitigate and protect any identified Great Crested Newts during construction. The Ecology Team will undertake the work to secure the licence, which is a standard procedure and typical of these types of works.

4. Finance

4.1	<u>Estimates</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>% of total</u>	<u>Funds Available</u>	<u>£'000</u>
	Design Fee	32	7	Developer contribution	450
	Client Fee	11	2		
	Supervision	7	2		
	Construction Land	400	89		
	Total	<u>450</u>	<u>100</u>	Total	<u>450</u>

4.2	<u>Maintenance Implications</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>% Variation to Committee's budget</u>
	Net increase in current expenditure	2.3	0.002%
	Capital Charge	43.0	0.027%

5. Programme

	Gateway Stage			
	3 - Project Appraisal	Start on Site	End on Site	4 - Review
Date (mm/yy)	04/19	07/19	11/19	11/20

6. Scheme Details

- 6.1 The scheme comprises the provision of a 1.8-metre-wide footway from the roundabout junction with Jermyns Lane/Braishfield Road through to the Dog and Crook public house (approximately 800 metres). A new uncontrolled pedestrian crossing point will be constructed just south of the access to the Dog and Crook pub to allow pedestrians to cross Braishfield Road and continue north towards Braishfield village on the existing footway.
- 6.2 The existing footway on the west side of Braishfield Road and south of the roundabout junction of Jermyns Lane/Braishfield Road, will be widened to 3 metres and converted to a shared use facility. This will link to the existing 3 metre footway, 400 metres south of the roundabout. This section is

approximately 200 metres in length and will be converted to a shared use facility upon completion of the scheme.

- 6.3 The existing “cyclist re-join carriageway” sign and the drop kerb where the shared use footway terminates (just north of the Freemantle Road/Braishfield Road roundabout junction), will be removed. This will provide a more continuous off-road cycle route for cyclists, which will then link them to the Sandy Lane/Braishfield Road roundabout junction, as well as linking to the existing shared use footway going east through the Ganger Farm residential development.
- 6.4 As a result of the required construction of the 1.8-metre-wide footway in Braishfield Road, this will require the existing adjacent ditch to be culverted/piped in order to adequately discharge the surface water from the carriageway/footway.
- 6.5 A short section of the existing footway on the north west side of the Sandy Lane/Braishfield Road will be widened to 3 metres to allow cyclists to safely navigate the roundabout using the existing refuge island and then re-join the carriageway just north of the roundabout.
- 6.6 Cyclists travelling east on Sandy Lane will be able to join the new section of shared use facility by way of a ramp just north west of the Sandy Lane/Braishfield Road roundabout junction should they wish to continue their journey north towards Braishfield, which eventually returns cyclists back onto the carriageway.

7. Departures from Standards

- 7.1 None.

8. Community Engagement

- 8.1 Hampshire County Councillor Alan Dowden has been consulted on the scheme and is fully supportive. Councillor Roy Perry has also been consulted, as the sole trustee of the Hillier’s Garden charity, and his electoral division boundary is adjacent to Councillor Dowden’s. He also fully supports the proposals.
- 8.2 Braishfield Parish Council has been consulted on the proposed improvements, and also fully supports the scheme. In addition, the Ramblers Association was consulted on the scheme and was supportive of the improvements.
- 8.3 Several meetings have been held with the director of Hillier’s Gardens and they are fully supportive of the improvement proposals. Those residents directly affected by the work will be written to in due course, informing them of the scheme and likely dates of the work.

9. Statutory Procedures

- 9.1 Due to the known presence of Great Crested Newts (in the adjacent area of Hillier's Gardens/Arboretum), a further E-DNA ecology assessment will be required in mid-April 2019. Should these tests confirm the presence of this protected species, a formal working licence will be required from Natural England detailing the process Hampshire County Council will undertake to either protect or mitigate their presence. This is a common procedure and should have no impact on the delivery of the scheme.
- 9.2 Due to the proposed culverting to some of the drainage ditches in Braishfield Road, an Ordinary Water Course Consent application will be required with the Hampshire County Council Watercourse team. This consent has been submitted to the water course team and approvals will be in place prior to any work commencing on site.

10. Land Requirements

- 10.1 No land will be required, and all the proposed work will be undertaken within the existing highway boundary. The area of existing 3-metre-wide footway on the west side of Braishfield Road (400 metres south of the Jermyns Lane/Braishfield Road roundabout junction) will be converted to a shared use facility under Section 65 of the Highways Act 1980. The remaining section of footway on the western side (from the Braishfield Road/Jermyns Lane roundabout junction) leading to the existing 3-metre-wide footpath, will be widened to 3 metres and link to the newly converted shared use footway just south of this. All work will be within the public highway boundary as the footways form part of the carriageway in Braishfield Road.

11. Maintenance Implications

- 11.1 The improvements will have a modest impact on future year's maintenance budgets and this is expected to be approximately £2,236 annually. The Asset Management team has been consulted on the proposals and has not raised any concerns.
- 11.2 The County Council watercourse team has also been consulted on the proposals as there will be some culverting/piping of the existing drainage ditch on the east side of Braishfield Road due to the limited options for constructing the footway there. Whilst no immediate concerns have been raised, advice has been received that a formal Ordinary Watercourse Consent application will need to be completed and submitted prior to any work being undertaken.

LTP3 Priorities and Policy Objectives

3 Priorities

- To support economic growth by ensuring the safety, soundness and efficiency of the transport network in Hampshire
- Provide a safe, well maintained and more resilient road network in Hampshire
- Manage traffic to maximise the efficiency of existing network capacity, improving journey time reliability and reducing emissions, to support the efficient and sustainable movement of people and goods

14 Policy Objectives

- Improve road safety (through delivery of casualty reduction and speed management)
- Efficient management of parking provision (on and off street, including servicing)
- Support use of new transport technologies (i.e. Smartcards; RTI; electric vehicle charging points)
- Work with operators to grow bus travel and remove barriers to access
- Support community transport provision to maintain 'safety net' of basic access to services
- Improve access to rail stations, and improve parking and station facilities
- Provide a home to school transport service that meets changing curriculum needs
- Improve co-ordination and integration between travel modes through interchange improvements
- Apply 'Manual for Streets' design principles to support a better balance between traffic and community life
- Improve air quality
- Reduce the need to travel, through technology and Smarter Choices measures

- Promote walking and cycling to provide a healthy alternative to the car for short local journeys to work, local services or school
- Develop Bus Rapid Transit and high quality public transport in South Hampshire, to reduce car dependence and improve journey time reliability
- Outline and implement a long term transport strategy to enable sustainable development in major growth areas

Other

Please list any other targets (i.e. National Indicators, non LTP) to which this scheme will contribute.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	no
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	no
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

An equalities impact assessment has been undertaken, and no negative impacts have been identified for people with protected characteristics.

The proposed pedestrian and cyclist improvements will have a positive impact on all users as it will assist pedestrians and cyclists in accessing amenities in the local area. It will also provide continuity for people wishing to travel between Romsey, Abbotswood and Braishfield Village.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. None

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

The provision of a shared use footway facility will improve access for pedestrians and cyclist which will help to promote walking and the use of alternative modes of transport. This will also reduce the dependency on car journeys for short distances.

This page is intentionally left blank



Jermyns Lane/Braishfield Road, Romsey Location Plan



Hampshire
County Council

SCALE: 1: 10,000

Drawn: BB

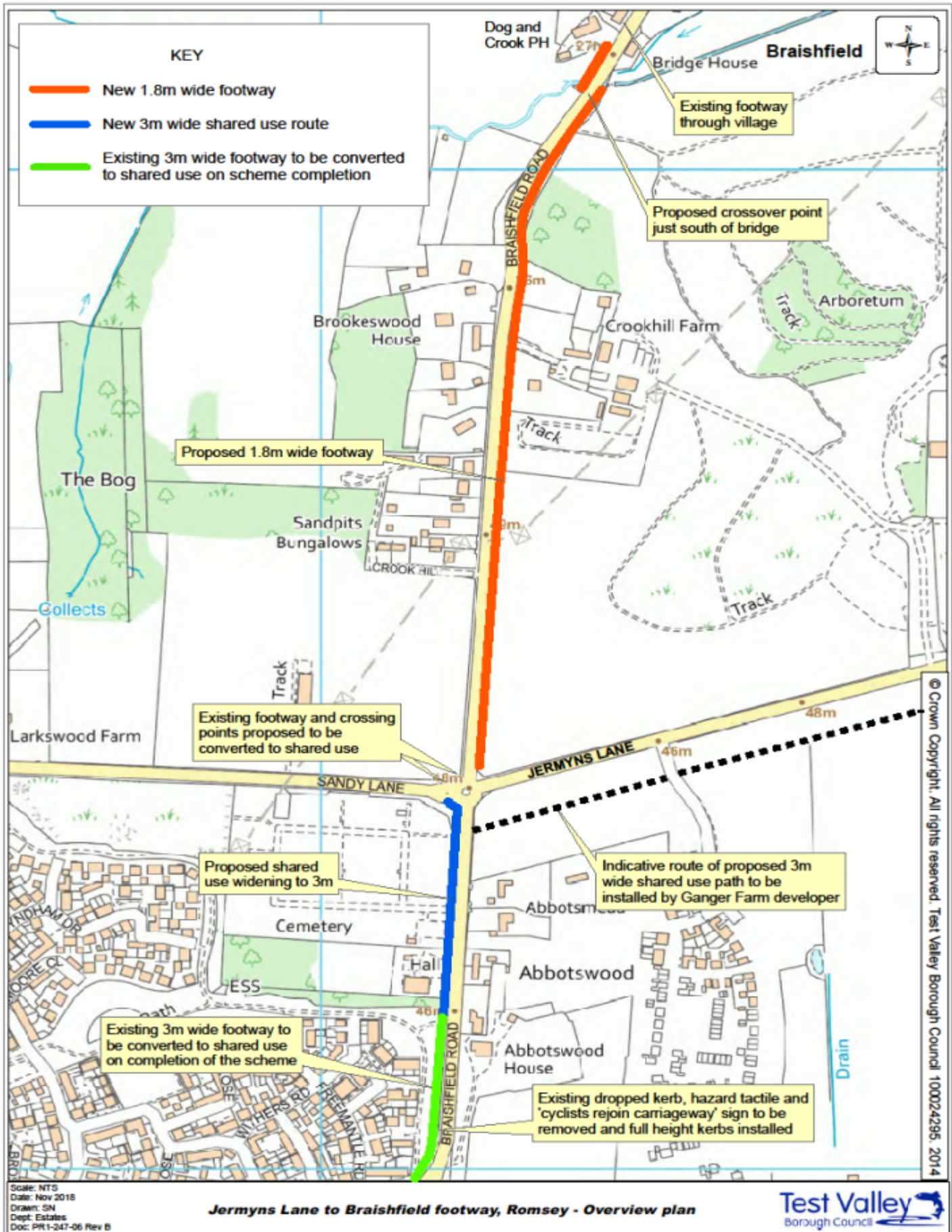
Revision:

DATE: 12/03/19

Checked: AK

Drg. No.:

© Crown copyright and database rights 2019 Ordnance Survey 100019180



HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date of Decision:	23 April 2019
Decision Title:	Appointments to Statutory Joint Committees and Outside Bodies
Report From:	Director of Transformation and Governance - Corporate Services

Contact name: Katy Sherwood

Tel: 01962 847347

Email: katy.sherwood@hants.gov.uk

1. The Decision (PROPOSED):

a) That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport be requested to make appointments to the Statutory Joint Committees and Outside Bodies as detailed below. The term of office to expire in May 2021.

OUTSIDE BODIES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

	<u>Name of Body</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Previous representatives</u>	<u>Appoint ment(s) until May 2021</u>
1.	River Wey Trust Management Committee 1	To carry out work and research on the River Wey	Carew	

2. Reason for the decision:

2.1. To maintain County Council representation on committees and bodies within the community.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. Not to make appointments, which would cease County Council representation.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

**Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Rob Humby**

Date: 23 April 2019