

**T**he Chilterns is a beautiful area of rolling chalk hills, woodlands, streams and quiet valleys with brick and flint cottages. In 1965 it was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), in recognition that it is one of the finest landscapes in the country.

The Chilterns Conservation Board is the public body with responsibility for protecting and enhancing the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It was established by Parliamentary Order in 2004, following national legislation to improve the protection and management of AONBs.

### *The Conservation Board's primary duties are:*

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Chilterns AONB
- to increase the understanding and enjoyment of the AONB's special qualities.

In addition, the Conservation Board has a secondary duty to foster the social and economic well-being of local communities, where that is compatible with its primary duties.



## MEMBERSHIP

The Conservation Board has 29 members, drawn from a wide range of communities across the Chilterns. Each member is independent and does not represent any other organisation. 15 members are nominated by the local authorities in the Chilterns, 8 are appointed by the Secretary of State from applications by the public and 6 are elected by parish councils. Members are paid an allowance to cover their expenses in carrying out Board duties.



## HOW DOES THE CONSERVATION BOARD WORK?

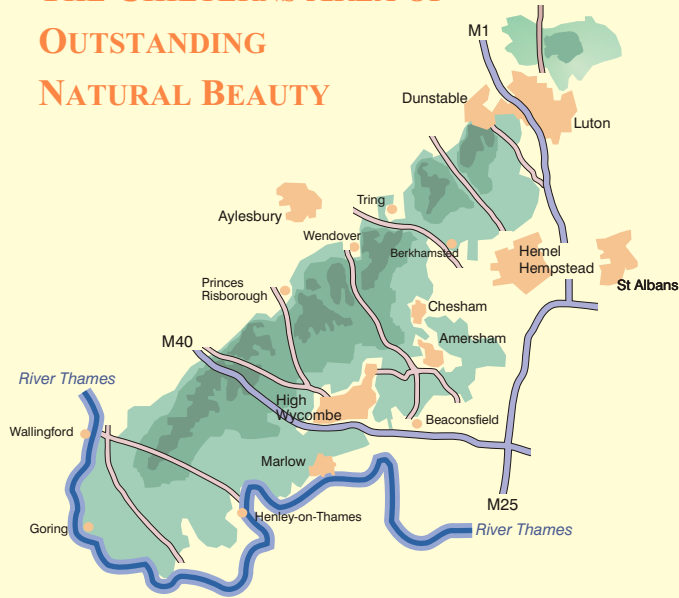
The Conservation Board meets on a quarterly basis at venues around the Chilterns to discuss issues of concern and decide on policies and actions. It also has two standing committees which meet regularly: Executive and Planning. A Standards Committee meets when necessary to monitor the work of the Board. In addition, the Board has a number of task groups working on particular themes such as land management, access, transport and the historic environment. These groups are open to colleagues from other public and voluntary bodies.

The work of the Conservation Board is guided by the Management Plan for the Chilterns AONB, which was produced in 2002 and will be reviewed by 2007. The Plan provides a framework for the actions of the Board, its partner organisations and local communities across the whole Chilterns. It has been adopted by all 15 local authorities.

Four fifths of the Conservation Board's core funding is supplied by central government and the remaining fifth comes from local authorities. The Board also makes bids to central and local government and other sources of funding to raise support for individual projects.



## THE CHILTERNERS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY



The Chilterns AONB is one of 41 AONBs in England and Wales. AONBs belong to the same family as National Parks which is recognised as containing the finest countryside in the UK.

The Chilterns AONB covers 833 square kilometres. Its landscapes have been shaped by the activities of farmers and foresters over hundreds of years and many ancient countryside features can still be found. It is also a haven for wildlife such as the spectacular red kite and the endangered water vole.

The Chilterns AONB has a resident population of 80,000 and attracts millions of visits every year by people who come to enjoy its landscapes and recreational opportunities.

## HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

The public are welcome to attend Conservation Board meetings. Details of these are published on the Chilterns AONB website [www.chilternsaonb.org](http://www.chilternsaonb.org).

On this site you will also find details of Board members and projects that the Board is involved with. You can download the latest Annual Report and the Chilterns AONB Management Plan, plus many other Board publications.

*Alternatively, contact the Conservation Board at:*

**The Lodge  
Station Road  
Chinnor Oxon OX39 4HA**



**Email: [office@chilternsaonb.org](mailto:office@chilternsaonb.org)**



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# Caring for the Chilterns



An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty