



**CHILTERN**  
CONSERVATION BOARD

## Chilterns AONB Strategic Objectives

### Nature

**NO1** Ensure that spaces for wildlife are expanded, well connected, well managed and diverse.

**NO2** Increase the range and abundance of populations of key wildlife species.

**NO3** Minimise development impacts on the AONB and its setting; where they are unavoidable, ensure they provide net environmental gains.

**NO4** Ensure that chalk habitat management in the Chilterns is widely considered an exemplar of best practice.

**NO5** Enable people to understand and be inspired by the natural environment of the Chilterns, ensuring that policies and decisions recognise the Chilterns' value to society and in its own right.

**NO6** Secure greater protection for chalk streams as a globally rare habitat.

**NO7** Encourage people from different organisations, communities and backgrounds, to work together to 'make space for nature' in the Chilterns.

### Historic environment

**HO1** Better protect the Chilterns historic environment, both formally designated and unprotected heritage assets.

**HO2** Seek new discoveries of unknown heritage assets and improve understanding of those already identified, to reveal the significance of the historic environment and cultural heritage of the Chilterns.

**HO3** Increase the knowledge and enjoyment of Chilterns heritage and culture by local residents, visitors and the wider public, and bring a love of heritage to wider parts of society.

### Land, woodland and water

**LO1** Protect and, where degraded, improve the Chilterns' natural capital resources, including soils, water, clean air, plant and animal life.

**LO2** Ensure that the Chilterns remain a functional, working landscape with viable, sustainable and diverse farming, forestry and rural economy sectors.

**LO3** Safeguard the Chilterns landscape by maintaining and enhancing all landscape features (such as hedges and trees), important wildlife habitats and cultural heritage at all times.

**LO4** Increase resilience to and effective management of pests, diseases, non-native invasive species and climate change.

**LO5** Achieve Water Framework Directive (WFD) objectives for the Chilterns water environment – rivers, valleys, wetlands and other riparian habitats.

**LO6** Ensure that those who work in the landscape, local and national policy makers, and the public, understand the link between environmentally sustainable farming, forestry, rural economy sectors and a healthy Chilterns AONB.

### Enjoyment and understanding

**EO1** Secure national recognition and greater resources for the wealth of accessible recreational opportunities the Chilterns countryside offers to residents and visitors.

**EO2** Ensure more high-quality opportunities for outdoor recreation, life-long learning and volunteering for all.

**EO3** Ensure more people can enjoy healthier and happier lives by enjoying the Chilterns.

**EO4** Make more people aware of what makes the Chilterns special and encourage them to help care for it and contribute to its protection. Inspire young people to build a lasting interest in the Chilterns.

**EO5** Encourage greater use of the Chilterns countryside by those from surrounding urban communities who currently have little connection with the AONB.

### Social and economic wellbeing

**SO1** Increase the economic and social wellbeing of local communities and businesses by supporting the development of the visitor economy and improving community facilities.

**SO2** Ensure that the Chilterns AONB is recognised and valued by residents, visitors and the health sector for the contribution it makes to peoples' physical and mental health, offering connection with nature and a wide variety of recreational opportunities.

**SO3** Ensure that the natural capital of the Chilterns and its contribution to society is understood and valued by all decision makers and used to lever funding.

**SO4** Ensure that businesses and communities in and around the AONB value its special qualities, support initiatives and help raise the profile of the area.

### Development

**DO1** Ensure planning decisions put the conservation and enhancement of the AONB first.

**DO2** Ensure that where development happens, it leaves the AONB better than it was before – richer in wildlife, quieter, darker at night, designed to have a low impact on the environment, and beautiful to look at and enjoy.

**DO3** Embrace opportunities to restore natural beauty on sites currently degraded by unsympathetic development, infrastructure or dereliction.

### General policy objectives

**General Policy 1:** Explore the case for and against the Chilterns having enhanced status or being designated a National Park.

**General Policy 2:** Review the boundary of the protected area to cover the wider area of the Chilterns landscape that merits it.

**General Policy 3:** Establish a strong partnership to deliver the Chilterns AONB Management Plan working together in the best interests of the area, its environment, communities, economy and visitors.

**General Policy 4:** Support projects and proposals that have a positive impact on the ability of the Chilterns to contribute sustainable Ecosystem Services by:

- Sustainably managing land and water environments
- Protecting and providing more, better and joined up natural habitats across the AONB and with adjacent areas, enhancing networks through the landscape
- Protecting and conserving water resources and improving water quality
- Improving the Chilterns' resilience to, and mitigation of, climate change
- Increasing the ability to store carbon through new tree planting, wetland restoration or other means
- Conserving and improving soil structure and quality
- Reducing litter and environmental pollution, especially air pollution
- Managing and mitigating the risk of flooding
- Supporting the sustainable production and local use of food, forestry and raw materials
- Improving opportunities for peoples' health and wellbeing, including provision of high-quality green infrastructure close to where people live
- Stimulating sustainable tourism and economic activity
- Delivering high-quality sustainable design that protects the local distinctiveness of the Chilterns
- Managing or controlling non-native invasive species.